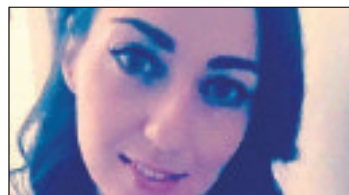




## VIGIL TO REMEMBER YOUNG MOTHER AT SCENE OF CRASH



Vikki Jones – tributes from family and friends

THE family of a Dudley woman killed in a car crash near her home have spoken of their devastation at losing a 'special, caring person and a fantastic mother'.

Vikki Jones, 30, was driving in Wood Road, Lower Gornal, just after 10pm on September 22 when her car was involved in a collision with a white BMW. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

A heartfelt tribute issued by Ms Jones' family reads: "On September 22, we lost her. We lost the most beautiful, caring, loving, funny, kind hearted person you could ever wish to

meet. She was a beautiful, strong, caring and loving person who had a massive heart and a love for life.

"She lived for her family, especially her daughter. She was a fantastic mother, and a brilliant role model."

Thanks were also offered to the residents of Wood Road and the Children's Ward at Russells Hall Hospital, who looked after Ms Jones' daughter following the crash.

A candlelit vigil will be held at the scene on Friday evening at 9.45pm. There will be readings before a two-minute silence at 10pm.

A 21-year-old man arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving was released on police bail last week.

The fatal accident has sparked anger from residents who claim their calls for traffic calming measures have been ignored.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "Our thoughts are with the family of the woman who lost her life. The circumstances of the accident are currently being investigated by police, however, as with all serious traffic incidents we will be carrying out our own investigation."

### POLICE

## Search for Natalie at nature reserve

THE search for missing Natalie Putt, who disappeared 14 years ago, has taken a new turn with police looking through woodland close to where she lived.

Detectives started their search of Elowes Hall Wood in Lower Gornal on Monday after 'further credible information' was received.

Around 20 police officers were involved in the search, which was initially focused on the pools in the Cotwall End Nature Reserve. The search was expected to take two days and involves a specialist team of divers.

### SPORT

## New foundation in honour of Duncan

A FOUNDATION to help young people in the borough with sports training is being set up in memory of famous Dudley footballer Duncan Edwards.

The Duncan Edwards Foundation is the brainchild of Rose Cook, who wrote and directed a documentary about the England and Manchester United star, who died as a result of the Munich air disaster in 1958.

● Film premiere – page 3

### BUSINESS

## Health food chain opens 100th store

GRAPE Tree, the Dudley-based health food retailer, is to mark its fifth anniversary by opening its 100th store.

The Kingswinford company has become one of the UK's fastest growing retailers, opening a new outlet every two weeks.

The firm's headquarters and distribution centre on the Pensnett Trading Estate has doubled in size.

### INSIDE

## DOREEN, GOT A NEW DVD, AY I



PAGE 13

# Homeless speedway club facing a major crisis LAST RIDE FOR THE HEATHENS?

ONE of the famous names in Dudley and Black Country sport could be facing extinction.

Cradley Heathens speedway club could fold after their next two races over problems finding a track to call home. Bosses says the future looks bleak after the Heathens hit problems with the two clubs whose stadiums they share

The club, which compete in the National League, have had no stadium of their own since the old Dudley Wood stadium was closed and the site sold for housing more than 20 years ago. The club returned to racing in 2010 and currently race in Wolverhampton and Birmingham. But with new owners taking over Birmingham Brummies and more fixtures for Wolverhampton Wolves due to a league shake-up, the future of Heathens is in doubt. Club director Nigel Pearson has hinted that he could be leaving this winter.

### Hopes

Earlier this year hopes were raised that the club could possibly get a new stadium in Oldbury but that fizzled out. This leaves track sharing as the only option if the club continues. In the past the club have held 'home' meetings at tracks as far away as Stoke-on-Trent.

Gary Patchett, who is the club's joint boss, said: "It was difficult this year but we pulled a rabbit out of the hat with the double-headers, which have been reasonably successful. Running at Birmingham isn't much fun for the supporters. We are grateful for the fact that we were able to race there, but it's hard. With the likelihood of new owners at Birmingham, they could be running two teams. It may be that Perry Barr is not an option. Then we have

### Report by Jamie Brassington

the AGM and from what I'm hearing, with Lakeside looking to return to the Premiership, they may come up with a 10-team league and four more home fixtures for Wolves. That's four more Mondays we can't have. We might be scuppered."

Mr Pearson said recently: "The truth is until we find a track of our own, we are always going to be in a very precarious position, and the fact we've actually lasted eight years so far is an achievement in itself. The next two months will obviously be crucial in our decision making as to what happens with the club next year and at this stage I cannot guarantee my own involvement."

Heathens' fixture at Monmore stadium against Eastbourne on October 16 and the club's FAST Golden Hammer competition at Wolverhampton a week later could be the club's last.

● Bleak – page 40

## Jordanne opens new museum



Mum-to-be Jordanne Whaley at the museum with Mayor and Mayoress Councillor David and Barbara Tyler

THE new Dudley Museum, featuring exhibits ranging from sporting memorabilia to ancient fossils, has been opened by wheelchair tennis star Jordanne Whaley MBE.

The 25-year-old mother-to-be, who has won nine grand-slam titles, cut the ribbon at the museum in Tipton Road on Saturday.

It includes the current Wimbledon double cham-

pion's tennis kit and shirts and England caps that were awarded to Dudley football legend Duncan Edwards.

Jordanne said: "I didn't know what the museum was going to be like inside. I had a tour around the place and I didn't know there was so much stuff here. My favourite part is probably the Roman section with the coins."

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## No joke for Jim on murder claim

AUSSIE comic Jim Jefferies brought his hit TV show to the streets of Birmingham, which he told his American audience was the murder capital of the UK. The film sees him with officers from West Midlands Police.

He joined Insp Matt Minton and Sgt Leanne Chapman and the film sees the pair stop and detain suspected criminals. Jefferies has been vocal in his criticism of US gun control.

He said Birmingham was the 'murder capital of the UK' with 13 homicides in 2016. His film compares it with Birmingham, Alabama, with a quarter of the population but eight times more murders - 104 - in 2016.

## Students are put on right towpath

ENGINEERING students kicked off the new term by sprucing up a canal towpath.

The students from City of Wolverhampton College, who are studying for level two and three diplomas in mechanical engineering, helped improve the Lichfield and Hatherton Canal.

They spread hardcore along a half-mile stretch of the path, as part of an ongoing restoration scheme, as well as visiting the canal aqueduct crossing the M6 Toll road.

College bosses said the project was organised to show students the types of work involved in civil engineering projects, as well as develop team work.

## Bears to go at hospital auction

THE decorated bears from this summer's Big Sleuth art trail in Birmingham and the Black Country are being sold at auction. Fieldings Auctioneers in Stourbridge is hosting the sale on October 12. It will raise funds for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The project's predecessor The Big Hoot, raised £500,000 for Birmingham Children's Hospital in 2015 and The Big Sleuth is aiming to beat that.

Bidding for each bear is expected to start in the region of £6,000.

## Firm's sales bounce back after its move

A FIRM specialising in rubber products and polymer sheeting has increased sales by seven per cent.

MacLellan Rubber moved from Neachells Lane, Wednesfield, to Planetary Road Industrial Estate in Wilenhall last year. The 146-year-old business had been at the Wednesfield site for 12 years. Director Andrew Onions said: "I'm delighted that our performance has bucked the trend."

# Violent and sexual offences on the rise

VIOLENT and sexual offences has risen by more than 15 per cent across Dudley borough over the last year.

There were 246 more offences with 1,716 violent and sexual offences committed between July 2016 and June this year compared with 1,470 offences between in July 2015 and June 16 last year.

Council chiefs have called for action in response to the 'concerning' trend.

Councillor Rachel Harris said: "It's concerning this trend is rising, particularly at a time when we seem to have less of a presence on a day-to-day basis.

"Given the rise in reported violent crimes, I am concerned people may not be reporting other types of crime at a time when they really should be reporting any incident of anti-social behaviour.

"If we're not going to have a clear picture then we should put pressure on to try and change the way it's being policed."

Dudley borough has seen on average five violent and sexual offences a day since July 2016. In June this year 179 such offences were committed comparing to 113 in January. Overall crime rates in the borough have seen an increase over the past year with

May 2017 seeing the highest amount of crimes at 789.

Police and crime commissioner David Jamieson said: "The rise in violent and sexual offences is deeply worrying. I am cutting down on bureaucracy to make sure officers are able to spend time tackling crime rather than filling in forms. I have been able to restart recruitment of officers and PCSOs."

# Bedsit landlord told to pay out £340,000

By Marion Brennan

A ROGUE landlord has been ordered to pay more than £340,000 after illegally converting several houses in Dudley into bedsits.

Birmingham-based Latif Rehman, who earns £150,000 a year from rents, has been punished after ignoring council notices to undo the work.

A judge described Rehman as 'a significant player' in the industry, who knew that he was breaching planning regulations. Rehman, 58, received £278,000 in tenants' benefits from Dudley Council on three properties in Netherton and one in Wall Heath.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that he continued converting some houses into flats and bedsits even after being told to stop the work as he did not have planning permission.

## Ignored

Prosecuting, Mr Mark Jackson said enforcement notices were served on Rehman in relation to two adjoining properties in Cole Street, and one in Northfield Road, in Netherton, and a fourth in Wolverhampton Road, Wall Heath. But in each case he ignored the notice and continued to rent them out.

The two Cole Street houses had each been turned into five flats and the other two both into six. Mr Jackson said: "The local authority has bent over backwards to afford the defendant every opportunity to comply with the enforcement notices. He was given extension after extension and used the time to obtain more rent."

Rehman, of Lordswood Road, Harborne, pleaded guilty to four charges of failing to comply with enforcement notices. He was ordered to pay Dudley Council compensation of £278,028, fined a total of £40,000 and ordered to pay £25,898 prosecution costs.

## Ex-police station on the market for £450k



The former Kingswinford police station on the A491 Moss Grove is now up for sale for offers from £450,000

A FORMER police station in Dudley borough has been put up for sale. Kingswinford's old police station, which closed in the summer, has been put on the market for £450,000.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson has appointed Birmingham independent commercial property agency KWB to market the site, which sits on a prominent position near the A491 at Moss Grove.

West Midlands Police last year confirmed 13 police stations in the Black Country were closing as part of £8.6 million cuts.

The former station in Kingswinford is being marketed as a potential family home or as a potential site to be redeveloped for residential use.

Kingswinford North and Wall Heath ward councillor Dave Tyler, who once worked at the building as a police officer, said: "I had some happy times there as a young officer."

"But times move on and efficiencies within the police service have meant that certain properties have had to fall by the wayside.

"I do really hope whatever happens to it, it enhances the quality of Kingswinford town centre."

# Talks over revamp of High Street shops centre

A MAJOR redevelopment of a shopping centre in Dudley town centre could be back on the cards after crunch talks were set between the owners and council bosses.

Plans for the Trident Centre in Dudley have been in the pipeline for months but were set back in March when the owners took a U-turn after a row with the council over a 'lack of dialogue'.

At the time Dudley Council was run by Labour but now under a Conservative administration a new meeting has been arranged as the redevelopment proposals look set to be revived.

Dudley Council will meet the owners 'in a few weeks' and a planning application could be submitted for the site if talks prove successful.

Council leader Patrick Harley said he was optimistic a deal would be struck.

Councillor Harley believes owners, Atlantis Property, want to create larger shops with bigger shopping space and give the site a makeover. He anticipates the plans to involve a 'substantial investment'.

He said: "We have got to see what the owners will be proposing but I would certainly hope plans will be put forward. It is more than likely a possibility that a redevelopment of the site will go ahead, but it is down to them and for us to see what the plans are."

"I believe a meeting has been arranged between them and our regeneration team in a few weeks."

The Trident Centre, on Dudley High Street, has been described as having 'considerable redevelopment potential' in the Dudley Area Action Plan, published by the council.

## Remembrance festival with song

THE annual Dudley Festival of Remembrance is being held in Dudley Town Hall on November 9, from 7.30pm.

Kingswinford's male voice choir The Gentlemen Songsters and Dudley Council are organising the popular event in aid of The Royal British Legion.

It will feature a service of dedication remembering those lost in conflict, followed by entertainment provided by The Gentlemen Songsters, Sovereign Brass and Lutley Community Voices.

Tickets are £5 and further information is available online at [www.gsmvc.org.uk](http://www.gsmvc.org.uk) or [boroughhalls.co.uk/dudley-festival-of-remembrance.html](http://boroughhalls.co.uk/dudley-festival-of-remembrance.html) or call the ticket hotline on 01746 763850.

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# Traders in call for an hour's more free parking

BUSINESS leaders are calling for permanent two-hour free parking in council-run car parks in Halesowen after a trial period ended.

Dudley Council brought in two-hours free parking on council car parks in April but the time limit has gone down to one-hour from Sunday.

Halesowen Business Improvement District (BID) has written to the council asking for the two hours of free parking to stay because it has helped local businesses.

Wayne Edwards, chairman of the Halesowen BID, said: "Businesses across Halesowen have benefitted from the two-hour free parking trial. To reduce this allocation to one hour is simply not good enough.

"We wish to work with the council to obtain a longer duration of free parking and it will remain our highest priority until we succeed."

A spokesman for Dudley Council said the parking initiative came into effect on April 24 for car parks also in Dudley, Brierley Hill and Sedgley.

But, from Sunday, parking in the four towns will be reduced to one hour, but the initiative will be extended for car parks in Stourbridge and Kingswinford.

The BID has also been working to improve security in Halesowen to benefit traders and other business people. The group is speaking with police about high levels of crime.

# Show looks at the life of Vera Lynn

A SHOW about the life of 'the Forces Sweetheart' Dame Vera Lynn is coming to Brierley Hill Civic Hall later this month for a matinee show.

Lorrie Brown, who has been performing a Vera Lynn tribute show for more than 25 years, embarked on a UK tour to mark the star's 100th birthday this year. Sincerely Yours. The Vera Lynn Story will be at the Brierley Hill venue on October 24 at 2.30pm. It will explore her life before and during the Second World War and will feature her hits, including White Cliffs of Dover and We'll Meet Again.

In 2013, Lorrie was named by the Agents' Association as the UK's best Vera Lynn tribute act. Tickets are £15 available on (01384) 573381. See [www.veralynntribute.eu](http://www.veralynntribute.eu) website.

# Beer tap takeover

A STOURBRIDGE town centre bar is holding a 'tap takeover' night with a Birmingham brewery. Barbridge, in Victoria Passage, will be offering craft beers from Burning Soul Brewery on October 26. There will also be a DJ.

# Flick knife thug is put behind bars

A TEENAGER who stabbed a 19-year-old man at Merry Hill shopping centre has been locked up for eight years.

Ronan Parker was 'looking for trouble' at around 11.15am on July 8 when he barged through a group – two men and two women – walking in the opposite direction at the shopping centre, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 19-year-old defendant turned to stare at them, prompting an angry exchange of words that ended with a challenge to go outside for a fight, explained Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

Mason Smith removed his shirt as he and the other man from the group were followed by Parker, whom one of the young women saw remove a knife

and hide it behind his back. She tried to warn Mr Smith but he threw a punch before Parker stabbed him once, cutting into the spleen.

The kitchen porter fled in to the nearby Marks and Spencer store pursued by Smith but gave the injured man the slip.

## Arrested

He pulled up his hood and walked towards the exit but was spotted by an off-duty policeman who followed him outside and the attacker was arrested. A flick knife with a four-inch blade used in the stabbing was discovered.

The defendant claimed that a member of the group – not Mr Smith – had a knuckle duster and

one was later found near the entrance to the shopping centre.

Mr Smith was rushed to hospital where he underwent emergency surgery and discharged five days afterwards. He told police: 'I thought I was going to die'.

Mr Robert Cowley, defending, said Parker had carried a knife 'for protection' since being beaten with a baseball bat by a gang 12 months earlier.

The lawyer added that the defendant had been revoked.

Parker from Dixons Green Road, Dudley pleaded guilty to wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and was given eight years detention in a Young Offenders Institution.

# Hospital takes on new staff to tackle shortage

**ALMOST 100 new nurses, midwives and other medical workers have been hired at Russells Hall Hospital to tackle staff shortages.**

The trust that runs the hospital has hired 35 members of staff in just one month as a result of three recruitment events.

The events, which took place on August 24, September 8 and September 20, saw nurses, operating department practitioner's and allied health professionals – which can include therapists and radiographers – taken on board.

It comes as 60 nurses and midwives were taken on in addition at the start of August – with 38 nursing graduates, 12 children's nurses and 10 midwives hired.

Dudley Council chiefs have praised the trust for doing a 'sound' job following a disappointing £19,000 trip to the Philippines last year to interview 115 nurses when just three were hired.

## Grip

Health and Wellbeing councillor Rachel Harris said: "This is great news for the trust and it's very re-assuring for residents and patients that the trust is now managing to get a grip on bringing staff numbers up to the level that we expect."

Staffing levels at the hospital had not been at a safe level last year.

This was due to recruitment struggles, sickness and intense A&E pressure. It sparked an desperate search to fill vacancies, including efforts to hire overseas.

But now Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust Interim chief nurse Siobhan Jordan said recruitment was picking up.

She said: "We are delighted at the success of our most recent recruitment events and we will continue to host more in the future.

"We are exploring many different opportunities to attract people to work in Dudley such as job fairs and other events and we are looking to work with the Prince's Trust.

"We hope to attract fantastic home-grown talent we know is out there."

## Club bounces back as mayor joins in



Mayor of Dudley Dave Tyler, with (left) Sandy Jones, of Wombourne, and June Barnett, of Netherton

MAYOR of Dudley Councillor took part in a fitness class when he visited Quarry Bank Community Centre in Brierley Hill.

The mayor had been invited to the Bounce Back to Health and Happiness club and he was a willing volunteer.

Managing director Sandy Jones said: "The mayor spent all morn-

ing with us and he joined in with the exercises ,which was really great."

Mrs Jones opened the club, funding it herself, following the closure of Age UK Springboard Activity Centre last December, which left hundreds of elderly residents without a place to go. That centre was axed after funding

was pulled by the Big Lottery and Dudley Council.

Mrs Jones said: "Myself and my colleagues were made redundant. I decided to use my little bit of redundancy and decided to start up my own centre. It started on January 9 and now we're building on a client basis of almost 200 people and 16 volunteers."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Groups urged to apply for grants

COMMUNITY groups and charities in Dudley have been urged to take advantage of a new grant.

Bluebird Care Dudley is making available its first ever community grant worth £250 to benefit charities and any other community projects in the borough. Applications will be accepted from charities and voluntary organisations in the community. The one that can best demonstrate a need for additional support will be helped.

Nicola Witt, owner of Bluebird Care Dudley said Bluebird was passionate about supporting community initiatives. To apply call (01384) 297839 or email [dudley@bluebirdcare.co.uk](mailto:dudley@bluebirdcare.co.uk)

## Artist showcases work at The Portal

A SELF-TAUGHT artist is showing his work at an exhibition in Dudley.

Phil Sedgley is displaying his paintings, mostly landscapes, at the Waterside Gallery at Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust's visitor centre, the Portal, until November 17.

Art has been a hobby for Mr Sedgley, from Stourbridge, since he was in his teens. Since retiring from his job as an administrator last year, he has been able to spend more time at his easel. A previous exhibition, entitled Some You Just Might Like, was held at Himley Hall.

## Fantasy author launches new ale

A FANTASY author will be at a book signing in Birmingham where he will also be unveiling a new beer he has helped to brew in the Black Country.

Stephen Aryan was due to be signing his new book Mageborn at the Waterstones shop in Birmingham city centre yesterday (Wednesday) at 6.30pm.

He visited Fownes Brewery in Upper Gornal recently to create the craft ale called Mage.

The West Midlands-based author's novel is the first of a new trilogy called Age of Dread.

## Halloween boat trips into the canal tunnels

SPOOKY boat trips into tunnels and caverns under Dudley are being organised for Halloween.

Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust is running the family trips from October 27 to 31.

Groovy UV Entertainments Company is creating glow-in-the-dark puppets for the trips that last 45 minutes to an hour. They can be booked at [dudleycanal.trust.org.uk](http://dudleycanal.trust.org.uk) or by calling 0121 557 6265.

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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Phones OK surely if you are not mobile

DESPITE stiff new penalties, more than 16 million motorists admit to still using their mobile phones while driving, according to shock new figures from the RAC.

Well that's not strictly true. Delving a little deeper, the figure actually includes seven million who only use their phones while their cars are stationary.

The RAC says it is immaterial whether the car is moving or stood still in traffic. But it does make a difference, doesn't it? Because you can't hurt anyone if you are not moving.

And given the authorities' fondness for digging up roads and shutting motorways, is it really surprising some will text their work to say traffic is at a standstill?

There is no excuse for using a handheld mobile phone while driving but the law should show a bit of common sense when it comes to people in stationary vehicles. And many will still risk a £200 fine if the alternative is an angry boss wanting to know why they didn't tell them they would be late.

□□□

TWITTER is thinking of doubling the number of characters people can use in their messages. Which means if trials are successful, trolls will have a whole 280 characters to spew their venom. And Donald Trump will be able to rile twice as many megalomaniacs into nuclear war. What's not to like?

□□□

TALKING of internet trolls, new research shows 87 per cent of MPs suffered some sort of abuse in the run-up to the last election. It's tempting to say this is not nearly enough, but some of the stories suggest this goes way beyond the harmless heckling of a vibrant democracy.

Labour's Diane Abbott seems to have suffered most, experiencing racist and sexist abuse nobody should endure.

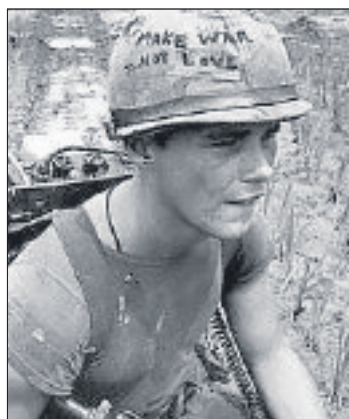
I've never understood why people get so het up about politics, it's a bit like brawling over which brand of margarine tastes best. But some people can no longer discuss economics or immigration without the sort of tribalism traditionally reserved for Millwall away games.

Perhaps Miss Abbott should have a word with Laura Pidcock, the 29-year-old Corbynite MP who described her political opponents as "the enemy", and said she would never be friends with a Conservative. Hopefully one day she will realise that disagreeing with someone is no reason to hate them. MPs can hardly expect people to be nice to them when they can't be nice to each other.

## Pros and cons of life with technology and capitalism



Corbyn's nationalisation plans. Should they include insurance companies?



The Vietnam War, remembered in a 10-part series on BBC4, recommended by Rhodes



Sian Gibson in Car Share, who kept using a grandfather's funeral to get a day off work

# Droning on about insurance rip-offs

SCIENTISTS report this has been a bad year for butterflies. Which we all understand means a shortage of butterflies. "A bad year for wasps" has an entirely different meaning.

RESEARCH at Nottingham University suggests the winter-flu jab is more effective if you're in a happy frame of mind when you get it. This may reinforce your belief in the awesome power of the mind over body. On the other hand, you may take the view that a vaccine whose efficacy depends on how happy you feel must be a pretty feeble sort of vaccine.

AS you may be aware, I am no great fan of drones, those irritating mini-aircraft that snop over our gardens on summery, sunbathing days. But the drone seems to have transformed the long-running war between police and those scumbags of the countryside, hare coursers. With a drone in the air, the cops can detect this sadistic activity, identify the vehicles involved and direct patrol cars to nick them. In a recent incident in Norfolk, a police drone traced four men; they were questioned and their 4x4 vehicle was seized. Coursers aim to terrorise and kill the innocent and beautiful brown hare. How fitting that, from the moment they hear the drone above them, they now know they are the prey, the predator has them in its sights and there is no escape. Poetic justice.

OH, Jeremy Corbyn. What is this eagerness to nationalise gas, water, electricity and the railways when the real scoundrel, the biggest, nastiest example of the unacceptable face of cap-

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



italism, grows fatter by the day? It comprises dozens of companies selling virtually identical products, ripping us off with yearly price hikes way in excess of inflation, treating loyal customers like suckers and luring us on with massive advertising campaigns which we, naturally, pay for. I refer to the British insurance industry. The sooner it is nationalised and run by the people for the people, the better. You can understand the wicked Tories regarding the industry as untouchable but surely Labour has a view?

THE Vietnam War (BBC4) is a masterful 10-part series on a conflict unlike any other. It was so vivid, so violent and so endlessly filmed that it became part of our culture throughout the 1960s. Every evening's news brought more frightful images as we became familiar with places like Da Nang and Khe Sanh. And then, quite suddenly in 1975, it was all over and no-one, least of all the Americans, wanted to talk about it. Vietnam became the let-it-be-forgotten war. In 1992 I was on a press trip to Saigon. For us older hacks it was a city that, thanks to all the TV coverage, we half-knew. See? Here's the US embassy and over there's the presidential palace where NVA tanks smashed down the gates in the closing minutes of the war. But for the younger journalists it was just a holiday destina-

tion, a warm, friendly place with cheap taxis and great food. Re-visiting the war is long overdue, if only because it gives us a sharp lesson in how the best of intentions can lead you to fight the wrong enemy and drop blazing napalm on children in the name of democracy.

I HAVE tiny, lingering doubts about the claim that Britain is in for a series of major storms between now and Christmas. The forecasting companies may well be proved right. However, they are apparently using data from as far back as 1940 to predict what may be coming. Looking for patterns in the weather? Why do I keep thinking of roulette wheels?

IN a world riddled with internet scams, a good grasp of English remains our best defence. This, from yet another fake BT email: "This restriction will be disabled intermediately we confirm upgrade successful." Make a note of this one. Intermediately.

A TEACHER in Kent resigned after being accused of inventing a sick partner in order to get time off work. It makes you wonder how many ailing relatives, invoked for compassionate leave, actually exist. Does anyone check? If I remember rightly, in Peter Kay's comedy Car Share, Kayleigh (Sian Gibson) admits having attended her granddad's funeral three times.

THANKS in no small part to you lot and your contributions, this column has been shortlisted in the 2017 Midland Media Awards. Well done, all.

## TALKING POINT



# At pains to accept age-old problem

A FEW years ago, as an Express & Star journalist approaching the 40th birthday milestone, I was asked to write a first-person article on the pros and cons of notching up my fifth decade on this planet.

It had the usual comic references to putting on weight, losing hair in some places and gaining it in others, ha, ha, very funny...

Okay, now move on 12 years, and what do we find? Another version of me, admittedly personal circumstances have changed, workplace roles altered, a new wife, and pain, everywhere.

One day, it would be nice, just for one day, I'm not asking much, to be completely devoid of pain!

The deterioration of the physical form as humans cross the half century threshold was not something anyone told me about.

As I sit here in discomfort, I have pain in my neck, back, left forearm, fingers of both hands, left knee, and right heel/lower leg. And that is before I try and stand up and get my weary body into motion to cross the room towards the kettle to make a cup of tea.

I am married to a lady who has a catalogue of symptoms, women do seem to get it much worse. I only have three prescription drugs to take every day, she has a drawer-full!

Shoes make all the difference to getting through the day too. Who on earth was around when I was 30-odd to warn me of such required considerations? If I go for the cool-looking flat American style black hi-top sneakers, I believe they are called - you know, like the ones Will Smith wears in I, Robot - within yards of walking I go through the Charles Darwin-inspired evolution of humans chart, only backwards. Starting off with the upright hominid, ending up with chimpanzee.

I arrive at whatever destination it might be a crumpled mess and no matter what I do, I yearn for a motorised scooter to take me back home again. Perhaps that is why we see so many of them around these days - poor choice of footwear!

It seems that home comforts are needed more and more as we get older. Apart from missing my slippers on a recent holiday, I found it almost impossible to get to sleep at night in a strange bed without my beloved pillow.

I can only assume that the pains that I feel will become more tolerable when I hit the big 6-0, as I will either have so many that only the big pains will be noticeable, or perhaps the Alzheimer's will mean that I am not aware of them at all.

GRAEME ANDREW

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# Concentrate on driving not the cyclists

YET again another angry letter from an ill informed driver to fuel the anti-cyclist movement. Why oh why do some people have to make it a 'them & us' battleground.

Doesn't he understand there are a large number of safe road users who are both cyclists and motorists and good road sense should prevail for all.

The author of this rant starts his piece with the story of a woman cyclist who recently lost her life but shows no respect whatsoever at this tragic loss of life by instead mithering on about the choice of clothing colour for his

local cycling group. It's like saying motorists shouldn't be allowed black cars - come on, get real! In any case, in my experience, most club cyclists riding in groups have a variety of brightly coloured garments and ride leaders are always clearly marked. Helmets are also obligatory in most cases and lights in use when required.

The fact most shorts & trousers are black is down to the manufacturers but surely unless you are driving a Westfield or Caterham Super 7 or other equivalent low-slung sports car, you will see the top half of riders as well.

Nowadays there seems to be a growing trend for those who prefer four wheels to vent their fury. Cyclists are regularly cut up, abused, shouted and sworn at and this is not acceptable in what should be a mutually respectful and caring society.

With the utmost of respect can I suggest the Kingswinford shopping driver starts to concentrate more on his safe driving and road positioning than the backsides of cyclists minding their own business enjoying the fresh air!

**JUSTIN OSBORNE**  
Stourbridge

## Is the rush to deliver dangerous?

IT seems that recently hardly a week passes without tragic news of a fatal accident somewhere on our motorways and dual-carriageways, often involving commercial vehicles.

I cannot help but wonder if our buy-now get-now internet culture might be a significant factor in such tragic events. It is commonplace for internet sites to promise delivery by a specific time on a specific day. Such practices might easily cause delivery drivers to take risks in order to meet the deadline, especially where bonus payments are involved.

I think it is time to introduce a new traffic offence, that of encouraging or inciting dangerous driving.

Whether it might be teenagers' inciting a friend or relative to drive like a maniac, or a boss behind a desk demanding unreasonable delivery times. They should all face the consequences.

**MICHAEL CLIFF**  
Wall Heath

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

### EMAIL

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

**Code of Practice:** Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at [www.ipso.co.uk](http://www.ipso.co.uk). If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

## Thanks to hospital and ambulance staff

JUST like to say a massive thank you to all at the emergency care department at Russells Hall Hospital. I had to attend there on September 4 owing to an accident at work involving my neck. When I arrived the waiting room was absolutely full with more people turning up by the minute.

The way that the staff dealt with it all is beyond me, but they did. Believe me those guys are brilliant, considering the workload and what they're up against.

I can't remember all their names but Jo in the X-ray department was fantastic, as were everyone else, the receptionists, the doctor I saw, all very professional, caring and helpful. Also what a fantastic job Nat and Natalie and all the rest of the crew do on the BBC series 'Ambulance'.

**LEE THOMAS**  
Pensnett

## HS2 - sort out NHS instead

IF Councillor Doug James thinks that the staggering £55 billion (and rising) cost of HS2 is money well spent he must be living in cloud cuckoo land. With the NHS, police and other public services badly needing extra resources, spending money on this ludicrous project is bordering on insanity. Theresa May does nothing about it. It is possible that the Conservative Party hierarchy have decided to keep her in power so she can be blamed when big business tells the Tories that it will not accept a hard-line Brexit.

On the subject on the NHS, I wonder which jobsworth decided that the way to help Russells Hall Hospital with its waiting time problem is to fine them £250,000? You would hope MP Mike Wood, whose life was saved by the excellent care that he received at the hospital, would intervene to sort out this nonsense.

**PETER SIMPSON**  
Dudley

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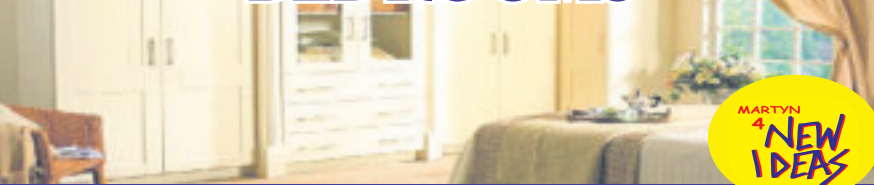
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The cast of youngsters with Mya Wright as Dorothy



Tin Man Arnold Tshibangu



Arnold Tshibangu took on the role of the robotic Tin Man



Youngsters from Wolverhampton and Sandwell in the ensemble



Milan Balaz as the cowardly lion



The five main acts; Tin Man, Toto, Dorothy, Lion and Scarecrow

# In the groove for wizard show

**POPPING, locking and lots of hip-hopping, this updated version of The Wizard Of Oz – featuring school students from the Black Country – was an absolute delight.**

Mentored by professional dance company ZooNation, two dozen pupils from schools in Wolverhampton and Sandwell, took the spotlight over several performances.

REVIEW - Groove On Down The Road, Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome. By Leon Burakowski

Performed to a vigorous and loud R&B soundtrack, featuring Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder and breakbeat remixes from Motown's The Wiz movie, Kate Prince's choreography brilliantly blends old school showbiz hoofing with acrobatic hip-hop style.

The set up is that Dorothy is a classroom dreamer, woken from her reverie by an angry teacher and, after being bullied by classmates, escapes into the fantasy world of Oz.

Here her various fellow pupils reappear in the guise of The Scarecrow (dressed in dungarees), Tin Man (boiler suit), etc.

The teenaged dancers, some looked even younger, did not put a foot wrong and were rewarded with loud cheers and a standing ovation from friends and parents in the audience at the Hippodrome's dance studio.

The main five pulled off astonishing flicks and tricks – and showed

plenty of comic timing – whilst the well-drilled ensemble provided dependable support.

Mya Wright, from Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy in Wolverhampton, had apparently boundless energy as the pig-tailed Dorothy.

Zedan Russel was a cheeky super-strutting Toto. Arnold Tshibangu was mecha-amazing as the robotic Tin Man whilst Traileam Richardson drew gasps of admiration

with his tumbling skills and fancy footwork as the Scarecrow. Milan Balaz was loyal to the classic hip-hop moves with his spinning Lion, and showed plenty of acting skills too.

The pupils from St Matthias, Cop-pice Performing Arts, Our Lady and St Chad's schools in Wolverhampton and the Shirelands Academy in Sandwell were superb.

It was the kind of show that saw people leave the venue with a big smile on their face and a spring in their step... more next year please.

## Going crazy for actress Sweeney in stage show

ACTRESS, singer and TV personality Claire Sweeney will take the stage for a national tour of a major production next year.

She will take on the role of Irene in Crazy for You, due to light up Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from May 8 to 12, 2018.

The 46-year-old will replace Caroline Plack in the West End smash hit, which is a tribute to Broadway musicals. It is directed by Paul Hart and Claire will join Tom Chambers as Bobby and Charlotte Wakefield who plays Polly.

Sweeney is probably best-known for playing the role of Lindsey Corkhill in Brookside. Other television credits include Clocking Off and Merseybeat along with a presenting role on 60 Minute Makeover and a panelist on ITV's Loose Women.

Her West End roles include Roxie Hart in Chicago and Miss Adelaide in Guys and Dolls. She previously played the title role in Educating Rita at London's Menier Chocolate Factory and prior to that, played Paulette in the UK tour of the award-winning Legally Blonde.

She most recently appeared as Baroness Bomburst in the National Tour of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.



Sweeney

## Model railway club hosting exhibition

CRADLEY Heath Model Railway Club are to hold their fifth annual model railway exhibition at Cradley Heath Community Centre.

The event on Saturday, October 14, from 10am to 5pm, will involve modellers from across the Midlands with layouts and traders selling model equipment for those looking to get started. Black Country author Ned Williams, who is opening the event, will be displaying his latest model creation 'Canterbury Gate'. Tickets cost £4 for adults and £3 five to 15-year-olds.

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Highlights include; Noel Fitzpatrick Live (presented by The Supervet, Professor Noel Fitzpatrick), Top Cats Competition sponsored by Hill's and GCCF and SuperDogs Live (presented by TV's Michaela Strachan).

There will be kids "Teepee" talks and animal handling sessions, the Secret Rabbit Garden and more than 90 educational talks and live performances.

With theatres in each show zone, visitors will receive top tips and free pet care advice from experts.

The SuperTheatre will also play host to live performances from the canine stars of SuperDogs Live, presented by TV's Michaela Strachan, including an opening performance by Britain's Got Talent Finalists Lucy Heath and Trip

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Hazard. The popular School 4 Dogs arena sponsored by Pets at Home will feature live training demonstrations. For tickets visit [www.thenationalpetshow.com](http://www.thenationalpetshow.com) website.

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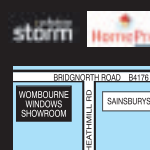
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## Region's 'time to shine' say mayor

WEST Midlands Mayor Andy Street is spreading the 'success story' of the West Midlands at this week's Conservative Party conference in Manchester, declaring: "This is our time to shine."

The Conservative mayor was pushing the region's claims as a model for the rest of the UK and said the time had come for the West Midlands to look beyond the UK and Europe and bring in global investment.

Mr Street said the region had 'outperformed' other areas of the country - including conference host city Manchester - and insisted his focus was on competing on a global stage in the post-Brexit world.

He proclaimed the West Midlands was ready to become a beacon of economic growth, adding: "The message I want to get across at the conference is that this is our time to shine."

"The West Midlands is poised to deliver, not just for its own citizens, but for the country. I want to make it very clear to the Government that we will deliver. They still control some of the investment that we need, so I want the West Midlands to be first and foremost in their minds."

And the region's Commonwealth Games bid was a big chance to further hog the spotlight, he added.

## Katherine's comedy night is set to sell out



Katherine Ryan brings her Glitter Room tour to Dudley

CANADIAN comic Katherine Ryan looks set to be performing in front of a full house at Dudley Town Hall next Saturday, October 14. Tickets have been in demand for the TV comedian and presenter's Glitter Room tour.

Katherine recently garnered rave reviews as the presenter and writer of Channel 4's How'd You Get So Rich? and also regularly appears major panel shows from BBC's QI, Have I Got News For You and Live at the Apollo and Channel 4's 8 Out of 10 Cats, as well as co-hosting Comedy Central's Your Face Or Mine with Jimmy Carr. She also won series two of Dave's Taskmaster.

Paul Chowdhry has sold out his Live Innit show at Dudley Town Hall on October 12 and TV comedian Matt Forde is bringing his A Show Hastily Rewritten to the stage at Stourbridge Town Hall on October 27. The borough halls comedy line-up also includes prankster Lee Nelson, Cornish comic Jethro and, in 2018, the return of Paul Chowdhry, Doreen in Rise of the Yam-Yam, David Baddiel, Jason Manford and Joe Lycett. For further details see borough-halls.co.uk or call the box office on (01384) 812812.

## Praise for college's student ambassadors

A COLLEGE has celebrated the first year of a European funded student exchange programme. The celebration was attended by students at Halesowen College who had completed work placements in Spain, Germany and Italy.

Three sports students worked in Barcelona, and eight students from business and IT travelled to Munich and Trento as part of the Strive programme.

The students were all congratulated by the new principal David Williams, who said: "This project has had a significant impact on the students. They have gained an understanding of working in a different country, which has enhanced their CVs and improved their employability."

Project manager Jamie Morgan-Green, of Halesowen College, said: "This is the first time that we have sent students abroad to take part in work experience and the feedback from the hosts and the companies has been extremely positive. The students were all true ambassadors."

# Health crisis looms as funds threatened by missed targets

**A CATASTROPHIC winter crisis is looming for social care with £150 million of vital funding under threat, council chiefs have warned.**

A letter signed by leaders of Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Staffordshire councils has been sent to Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt pleading with him to help avert disaster.

The council bosses say 'unachievable targets' have been set for local authorities to try to reduce the delays in people leaving hospital - known as bed-blocking - to just 3.5 per cent.

But each council is set lose millions of pounds each in its Better Care Fund for failing to hit the targets.

The letter says: "NHS England's position is that those local authorities who cannot meet the target will

not have their BCF approved and will therefore not receive the cash transfer from the NHS to protect adult social care. This is funding of around £150 million in the West Midlands on which we depend to fund a range of essential services. Without this funding services cannot be sustained.

"With winter approaching this will have a catastrophic impact on local people, leading to a serious crisis."

## Geopark bid gets a showcase display

CAMPAIGNERS hoping to get global recognition for Dudley and the Black Country's geology now have a new exhibition to show its importance.

A themed gallery illustrating the Black Country's geological history has opened as part of the new Dudley Museum, which was unveiled at the weekend as part of the Dudley Archives in Tipton Road.

The Black Country is bidding to become a UNESCO Global Geopark. These are geological areas of international significance which are given protection. A total of 45 geosites will make up the park, spread across the Black Country region. The Black Country is a place where coral seas, swamps, deserts, icy wastelands, mines and furnaces have created a unique landscape.

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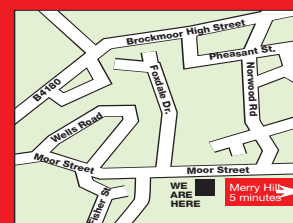
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# Black Country queen out to solve eternal dilemma

Review  
Doreen's Black Country DVD  
By Diane Davies

**REGIONAL treasure and self-styled Queen of the Black Country Doreen Tipton is on a mission!**

Perhaps surprisingly, the Lazy Cow takes it upon herself to answer the eternal Black Country dilemma – where is the Black Country?

As she points out, no two Black Country folk will ever agree on where or what it is. So in her latest DVD, Doreen sets out on her Grand Tour to reveal her very own Black Country.

Told as only a true Black Country wench can, and with complete irreverence, heart-felt fondness and lashings of Black Country humour, Doreen offers her own unique take on its people, places and history.

## Butcher

Black Country characters making it onto the DVD include Colin the chatty 82-year-old underwear salesman at Brierley Hill market, fellow trader 'Bruce the Butcher of Brierley Hill' and dancing 73-year-old 'apprentice' Ken. There is Simon the canal man/Peaky Blinders actor in Dudley, Ade the Wing Chun expert at Priory Park Boxing Club, Walsall town crier Cyril Richardson and even the Express & Star's own archivist Adam Phillips.

Regularly waving the Black Country flag, the Grand Tour takes in The Nether Regions (!), Dud-lay; Walsall, Wul-vrampton and, of course, a homecoming at her beloved Tipton.

The gems of the Black Country to get a 'royal' visit include Dudley Castle and Zoo, Priory Park boxing club where we discover Doreen can pack a punch, The Dog House antiques shop



With a frisky tapir at Dudley Zoo



Doreen's Black Country DVD cover



Doreen interviews Tipton Terror and Wolves legend Steve Bull

in Walsall, Molineux, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Dunstall Park, Mad O'Rourke's Pie Factory and the Express & Star where she gives editor Keith Harrison a grilling.

A highlight for many will be the 'rare interview' with Wolves 'leg-end' Steve Bull who also hails from Tipton and made his acting debut in Doreen - The Movie. Much of the DVD will

resonate with the proud Black Country people. Whether she answers the dilemma or not, her tour does highlight the region's kindred spirit, sense of community and humour.

This is a must-watch for anyone proud of the Black Country, is interested in its heritage, or who simply enjoys a bit of a loff. It is now available at the website [www.doreen.tv](http://www.doreen.tv)

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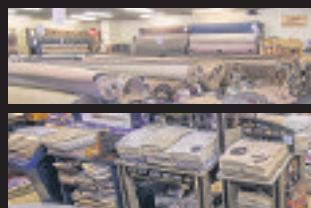


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# Astle family: Doyle's retirement shocking

Pair kick off for England



Kickboxers Arron Walker, left, and Harvey Adlam with coach Neil Kelly

TWO talented kickboxers from Sandwell will represent England at home and abroad next month.

Ten-year-old Arron Walker will be representing their country in two international combat competitions.

They will compete in the International Combat Organisation (ICO) World Cup in Birmingham and then four days later in Italy, at the Unified World Championships in October 2017.

Harvey, who is from Cradley Heath, has been training since he was six.

Last Harvey picked up two silver and a bronze medal at the Unified World Championships plus a bronze medal from the ICO British championships earlier this year.

Arron, from Rowley Regis, as well as being Harvey's coach is competing himself. He's been training since the age of eight.

KEVIN Doyle's retirement from football suggests modern balls are just as dangerous as the old leather ones, according to Jeff Astle's daughter Dawn.

Albion legend Astle was killed at 59 by a disease brought about by heading heavy footballs, and for the past 16 years his family have been campaigning for research into the issue.

And now, former Wolves striker Doyle has retired, aged 34, because heading the ball had become 'problematic' following two concussions in this season alone. He decided to hang up his boots after consulting with medical experts.

"It's shocking, but I'm not surprised," Dawn said. "They keep saying it was the old leather footballs that did the damage and dad used to say when it was wet it was like heading a bag of bricks. It was heavy, but it was slow. It certainly didn't come with the velocity of a modern ball."

"Think about it logically. With the modern day ball, the physics still apply because it's coming quicker."

Dawn says Kevin Doyle has done the right thing, adding: "It's very sad for him first and foremost. Credit to him, he's listened to the advice of specialists and taken what is a big decision."

Albion boss Tony Pulis admitted that Doyle's retirement was concerning – and the Welshman has backed the call for more research.



Kevin Doyle



Jeff Astle

# Shock eating disorder figures for children

MORE than 200 children in the Black Country and Staffordshire have been treated for eating disorders in the last three years – with one patient waiting 29 weeks for their first appointment.

New figures show patients as young as eight have been treated for conditions such as anorexia and bulimia across the region.

Figures released under Freedom of Information show a total of 224 children have been referred to the NHS for eating disorders since 2014/15.

There were 168 children and teenagers referred to the Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, and 28 each to Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, and South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. The average waiting times for patients' first treatment sessions varied from around four to under two weeks.

## Lottery

The longest recorded was 29 weeks by a patient treated by the Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust – more than 200 days. It led Wolverhampton Liberal Democrat campaigner Rob Quarumby to brand it a 'postcode lottery'. He said: "I think it is a scandal that children are being denied prompt access to vital mental health services simply because of the postcode lottery. It's unforgivable that some patients have to wait more than 200 days."

The Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust did not respond for comment. Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust said: "The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Eating Disorders service has very specific timescales attached to it, an urgent case will be seen within one week of referral and a routine case within four weeks; to date these timescales have not been breached." South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust said the success of their service had been recognised.

Vicious attack on CCTV



A shocking CCTV image of the attack by an iron bar wielding thug

THIS is the moment a man was attacked with metal poles in an attempted car-jacking in Birmingham.

The shocking CCTV coverage shows the 43-year-old being set upon by two masked individuals who hit him over the head in a desperate attempt to steal the keys to

his blue BMW M4. Despite being viciously assaulted, pushed to the floor, and hit over the head the car-owner fought off the crooks, refusing to simply hand over the keys to his prized car.

The vicious attack happened in Tilesford Close, Shirley, Birmingham on Friday September 22.



## More pets on parade in Chronicle competition



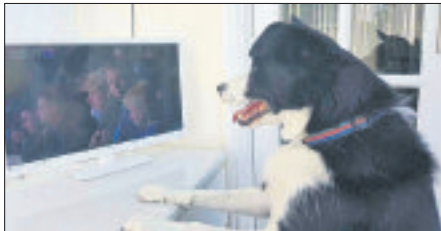
Sugar and Sylvie in a coveted place



Guinea pigs Sherlock and Holmes



West Highland terriers Misty and Meg



Six-year-old border collie Jess enjoys watching tennis



Border terrier Judy, aged 10, has recovered from cancer

# Snapshots reveal creature comforts

There is certainly some animal magic going on around here – as your pet pictures show.

Since The Chronicle launched its Animal Crackers photo competition readers have snapped to it and are sending in a host of cute, quirky and arty pictures of their pets.

From doe-eyed dogs, to cute kittens to fluffy guinea pigs, we loved it. And we want more pictures. Send us a picture of your beloved pet and as well as



the chance to see your family pet in print, you could also win a £100 cash prize.

It can be any animal as long as it is

a pet belonging to you or a member of your family.

Our Chronicle judges are simply looking for interesting pictures. We will select 10 of our favourite pictures and then it is up to our readers to decide which picture deserves the cash prize.

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# 16 Lighting up for community with woods wander

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, October 5, 2017

A NIGHT-TIME procession is taking place, bringing together all parts of the community at a Black Country beauty spot.

Bearwood Action for Refugees and We are Bearwood are hosting the second annual Procession of Light in Warley Woods on Saturday 14 October, from 6pm.

Following last year's successful and popular event, the community of Bearwood will be coming together once again to spread messages of hope, solidarity, friendship and welcome during the torch-lit walk through the woods.

Meeting at The Fountain at 6pm, the procession will make its way to The Pavilion where it will end.

Representatives from all faiths will be present and speakers from local charity Brushstrokes Sandwell, local Councillor Ann Jaron and Preet Kaur Gill MP will speak on the importance of friendship, welcome and hope within the community.

## Tutorial

Brandhall Community Choir will perform a selection of songs and be joined by a choir of children from local schools.

Smethwick Craftivistas are holding workshops, funded by the Near Neighbours programme, with a number of different community groups in the run up to the event. There is also an online tutorial people can use to make their own torch lantern at home to project their very own messages and light pictures into the twilight that can be downloaded from <https://bearwoodaction.wordpress.com/procession-of-light>.

At the culmination of the procession, torch beams, light pictures and messages will join together to create an installation of light.

A free lantern-making workshops run by the Smethwick Craftivistas will take place 4 - 5.30pm in Warley Woods Pavilion prior to the procession for those wanting to make their own torch lantern.

If schools and groups want to discuss how they can get more involved they can e-mail [bearwoodactionforrefugees@gmail.com](mailto:bearwoodactionforrefugees@gmail.com).

# Display steeling in the years

**MADE in Oldbury is a project exploring unique archive materials in Sandwell in relation to local industrial heritage.**

The project is organised by artist group Laundry, working with Sandwell Community and History Archive Service and Oldbury and Langley Local History Societies, and offers an opportunity to explore the personal impact of local industry within living memory.

The initiative has been set up with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

This month, the project is staging an exhibition of rare photographs unearthed from the archives of Sandwell and Oldbury and Langley Local History.

They will be shown alongside new artworks from local artists, Jain McKay, Joshua Whitehouse, the Happy Painters Group and students from Q3 Academy Langley, who have undertaken workshops with archive materials.

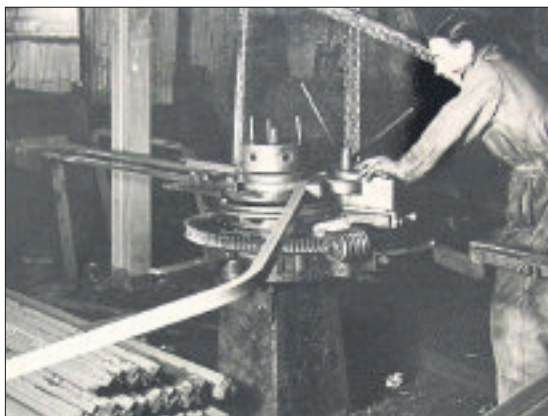
## Production

Kate Jackson is also showing a series of behind-the-scenes photographs of work at Metsec on Broadwell Road, one of the oldest sites of metal production in the area, which is still operating today.

The exhibition is on show at the Arts Café, Central Sixth, in West Bromwich's New Square until November 2, on Monday to Friday at 10am - 5pm; and on Saturdays October 7 and 21, 10am - 2pm.

A special preview of the exhibition, which took place on Tuesday, featured the launch of a newspaper by Oldbury Writing Group (who have produced creative writing in response to archive material) as well as a talk by Brendan Clifford, 'What England was to become...' - telling the story of the Romantic painter J.M.W. Turner's Midlands Tour.

The project will finish next month with a new website and photographic catalogue.



A machine worker carries out steel rod angle bending at the site



Workers with some of the machinery at the plant



The London Works in Halesowen Street, Oldbury from 1948



Local artist Jain McKay's typical view of Oldbury and the canal

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# Dedicated to Care

**Redbrick Court, a care home designed to meet the needs and expectations of the next generation of older people, is now open in Wordsley, Stourbridge.**

New owners SCL Care Ltd, who are well established in the West Midlands, say: "The dedicated service, combined with Redbrick Court's luxurious environment, will allow our residents to live a full, rich and meaningful life in the company of supportive and like-minded people."

Boasting a library, a hairdressing and beauty salon, two lounges, a cinema lounge, a unique garden room, a sensory room, a cafe lounge as well as beautiful dining rooms, Wi-Fi access, top-of-the-range accessible spa baths, wet rooms and personal laundry facilities, the home provides first class amenities designed to enrich and vary the daily life of residents, their friends and family. These leisure spaces will be used for a wide range of social activities on a daily basis and have been decorated to have a warm, homely feel.

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## Commercial feature

all residents, including those living with dementia, greater choice, dignity and security in their daily routine.

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With a wide range of on-site leisure facilities and a diverse choice of activities developed to enrich the lives of residents, Redbrick Court is a wonderful place to live. Little touches like beautiful vases and flowers,

vintage style photographs and artwork adorning the walls, as well as the fantastic staff, will make people feel instantly comfortable and at home.

The mature garden has a patio as well as a lawned area and benefits from a delightful water feature. Outdoor seating and rest areas offer residents plenty of opportunities to take a break and relax as needed, or spaces to simply stop and chat with friends in the peaceful setting.

Redbrick Court knows how important mealtimes are and like them to be a sociable part of the day. The home prides itself on the quality of their catering, serving tasty and wholesome food, prepared daily from fresh, seasonal ingredients. The experienced chefs understand the nutritional requirements of older people and cater for residents with a range of dietary needs. They respect individual preferences and plan menus in consultation with residents. Redbrick Court is taking bookings and offering special opening prices. Rooms are filling fast. For further information, or to arrange a visit, call (01384) 485444 or visit [www.sclcare.co.uk](http://www.sclcare.co.uk)

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# Bring a touch of vintage style to your dinner party

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



IT SEEMS like it was only a few weeks back that we were talking about the delights of al fresco summer tea parties but now, with autumn making its presence felt, I think it's time to think about eating in and staying warm!

Dinner parties with a vintage theme are always nice – and easy to achieve on a budget with a trip to the saleroom.

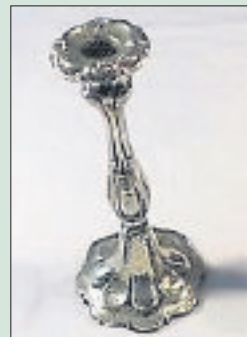
I'm not suggesting you go all out and buy a new dining or kitchen table, although you can pick up some lovely ones in the saleroom for very reasonable prices.

Instead why not make a shopping list of some nice vintage items that will add some old-fashioned charm to dining in?

Let's start with china and from the outset remember that it isn't important to have everything in the same style and colour, mix and match looks great.

Having said that, it is easily possible to pick up a nice and complete vintage dinner service in good condition that will also look really good.

Silver candlesticks make a perfect table centrepiece but for a more informal dinner you might go for flowers in an antique china jug or a candle in a wooden goblet.



Old linen lace-edged tablecloths and matching napkins are again ideal for a more formal occasion, they do require careful laundering but the effort is always worth it.

Cut-glass wineglasses, sherry glasses and tumblers are very popular at present but you might choose a set of plain coloured glasses in red, green

or blue for informal meals.

Meat and cheeses can be served on vintage chargers and dishes, coffee in old cups and saucers and mints and chocolates on pretty little side plates.

Soup and vegetables can be brought straight to the table in china tureens.

- Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.
- The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables takes place at the Mill Street saleroom in Low Town, Bridgnorth, on Tuesday, December 5. Viewing will be during the weekend and on Monday and also from 10am on auction day.
- New sale bidders are advised to attend the saleroom early on auction day to register and be allocated a bidding number.
- Perry and Phillips hold sales on the first Tuesday of every other month.

# French ladies have a style all of their own



Sophistication – Marion Cotillard

I HAVE just returned from a week in France. It was coming to the end of the summer season and there were very few tourists around, the weather was warm but not especially sunny and so it seemed autumn clothing was a necessity requirement.

I find myself looking at the style of the locals, an occupational habit but truly fascinating. A neat white top, tailored navy jacket, jeans and flat brogues in abundance.

The French have a style of their own, it is difficult to define but it is obvious and elegant.

Paris Fashion Week each year showcases the newest of trends, ready for the hordes of "wannabes" sat in the expectant audience, desperate to order and buy the latest styles from the top designers, written about by the editors of magazines and filling the high street shops within weeks but out there on the streets are the beautiful people sporting what suits them with a little "je ne sais quoi". Streetstyle photographers ensuring our magazine pages also depict this timeless and classic appearance.

The style of the Parisian female is well documented, there are many lists to define this

## STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



individual look and I have sorted through many to find a definition worthy of the style assigned to this chic appearance.

It is important to avoid the trends and find a signature look, investment instead of seasonal, a few particular timeless pieces not a bulging wardrobe, the importance of quality staple items.

Keep your main palette neutral, black, navy, grey, cream and introduce pops of colour in the form of shoes, bags, a dramatic scarf or wrap and never too much jewellery. Avoid bling and metallic in favour of a little black dress or a male inspired tuxedo trouser suit.

The garment fit is crucial and needs to flatter the body, avoiding trends that may accentuate a less flattering area and a good winter coat or trench coat in traditional styling is essential. Ultimately though you should dress

to suit you, wear what makes you feel special and positive.

Consider your make-up, minimal, neat and a natural look for daywear, then maybe a slightly deeper coloured lipstick for evening. Avoid showing too much cleavage or leg, remain feminine and no chipped nail polish or untidy hair.

To appreciate this phenomenon look at the effortless sophistication of Vanessa Paradis, Marion Cotillard, Brigitte Bardot, Catherine Deneuve, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, Sonia Rykiel and Audrey Tatou.

The ultimate however was Coco Chanel who changed the way 20th century women dressed, her look continues to enchant and delight today.

Classic pieces are still very much a part of the Chanel studio. She once said: "Before leaving the house, a lady should look in the mirror and remove one accessory." Less is more!

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# Long hours at desks that take a toll on our backs



The longer we sit at desks the weaker our bodies become

**LONG hours at a desk are taking a toll on the nation's backs – but you can take steps to offset the damage.**

We've all seen the headlines denouncing long hours spent at a desk every day as the root of many modern ills – but how bad can it really be?

"It's a huge problem," says leading physiotherapist and osteopath Tim Allardye. "It is one of the major reasons why back pain is so prevalent, and increasing year on year. Our sedentary lifestyles are a significant contributing factor. The longer we sit at a desk, the weaker and more rounded our bodies become."

"Sitting at a desk for long periods encourages us to adopt a forward postural position, where our backs round and become what is known as 'kyphotic' (a forward rounding of the back). An increased kyphosis in the spine is often a sign of poor posture and is directly related to rounded shoulders."

It's believed back pain affects almost half of the UK population in some way or other, and according to NHS figures, it accounts for more than 30 million lost work days a year. It's not just about back pain either. A recent University of Edinburgh study found many office workers spend more time sitting than the over-75s, and sedentary life-

By Abi Jackson

styles are linked to higher rates of major conditions like high blood pressure, heart disease and type 2 diabetes. But, if quitting the office isn't an option, what can you do about it? Quite a lot actually – although you have to be willing to make some changes...

**Ditch al-desco lunches**

"New research by Grace Say Aloe shows two out of five people are so glued to their desk, they even eat their lunch there," says pain psychologist Dr Anna Mandeville. "It's a very bad habit that's reinforced by our work culture in combination with high workloads. Moving regularly so we don't 'overdo' one behaviour – for example, sitting – has been shown to reduce pain and improve mood."

Your lunch break's probably your best opportunity to have a decent desk-break and get out to stretch your legs and get blood pumping through those veins – even go for a swim/jog/gym class, if circumstances allow.

**Actually talk to your colleagues**

Ideally, Allardye says you need to "get up and move every 30 minutes". "Maybe just a two-minute walk to a colleague," he suggests. "Don't spend more than 30 minutes at any one time sitting at your desk." We owe a lot to modern technology – but it's

also made us lazy. So next time you need to ask a colleague a question, rather than adding to their inbox clog, consider getting up and having a quick chat with them instead.

**Get a stand-up desk**

Research has found that using a stand-up desk can burn an additional 50 calories per hour. Also, when standing, blood doesn't pool in the legs like it can when sitting for long periods, which is good news for health all round. Stand-up desks can also encourage you to move more frequently, which may help keep stiffness and aches at bay.

There's a range of options and price points available and if you already have back or joint pain, it's worth seeing whether your employer could provide a stand-up desk. Some designs – including the Varidesk Pro Plus (from £325, [uk.varidesk.com](http://uk.varidesk.com)), enable you to alternate between sitting and standing to suit your needs. Available in black or white and three size options (30, 36 and 48 inch), spring-loaded mechanisms and lever-handles on either side are designed to make adjusting the height as easy as possible, and it adjusts to 11 different height settings so you can get it just right.

**Stretch it out**

There are plenty of simple stretches and yoga moves you can do at or near your desk, to help ward off aches and pains.



# Runners get Pretty Muddy for cancer charity

**MUD, mud, glorious mud** – there was nothing quite like it for more than 2,000 entrants in the very first Pretty Muddy obstacle race at Sandwell Valley Country Park.

Women and girls battled over a three-mile course on Saturday throwing themselves down chutes, wriggling under cargo nets, bouncing on space hoppers and charging through a mud pit while continually being drenched by race organisers armed with water guns.

But it was all for a good cause with around £200,000 being raised for Cancer Research UK from the inaugural event at West Bromwich.

Most of the female-only field had personal reasons for taking part, with many carrying messages about their loved ones in the warm-up area.

Midwife Lavinia Henry, 49, from Penn, had two good friends in mind as she battled her way around the course.

## Diagnosed

"One of them Gail had signed up to do this event but has since been diagnosed with bowel cancer so this is quite poignant for me. My other friend Jo is currently fighting cancer," she said.

Nurse Julie Darcy, of Walsall Wood, organised a group of 15 friends and workmates to take part in the fundraiser after the experience of caring for her mother, Doreen, in the last six months of her life. Her father John, 76, was at the event, sporting a T-shirt bearing his wife's smiling face, to support the group.

Organisers declared the event a big success. The Pretty Muddy event is an extension of the Race for Life runs which raise millions each year for Cancer Research UK.



Competitors had a splashing time in the Pretty Muddy obstacle race in Sandwell



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# Weedkiller ban could hit elderly gardeners

**NEW rules being debated in Europe could make keeping your garden tidy quite literally a massive pain in the neck.**

Despite Europe's food and chemical agencies agreeing that it's safe, European politicians are considering whether to allow people to continue using the weed killer glyphosate. The substance is the key ingredient in many weed control products used by gardeners.

The alternative is weeding by hand, which would particularly affect the elderly and less mobile. The aggressive invasive plant Japanese knotweed is very difficult to eradicate without access to products containing glyphosate.

Research shows that many British gardeners over the age of 50 believe this potential EU weedkiller ban would "impact their ability to garden", damaging one of the nation's most popular pastimes for older people.

Sarah Mukherjee, chief executive of the Crop Protection Association, said: "Every independent scientific study into glyphosate has found it is safe for consumers, including the EU's own European Chemicals Agency and European Food Safety Authority.

Banning the use of glyphosate would be contrary to the science and cause particular problems for older gardeners who rely on this safe and effective tool to help them create and maintain a beautiful garden, simply because of political pressure from activists."

Regionally, gardeners in Yorkshire were found to be the most dedicated in England, tending to their gardens the most often and for the longest period of time, while Londoners were revealed as the least dedicated gardeners in England, tending to their gardens less often and for less time. Gardeners in the North West are the most likely to decorate their gardens, with one in three saying they add ornamental features to their garden, compared to just one in five in London, who are more likely to leave things as they are.

Gardeners in the North East were the most concerned about weeds ruining their gardens, with one in five saying weeds are "very problematic" - more than three times the number of gardeners who were this concerned in the West Midlands.

# Hit the books while warming up in the house

**AS the weather cools down, you can warm up indoors with a crop of new gardening books to inspire you.**

You may be pruning, tidying up, clipping hedges or raking leaves as autumn arrives and you start to batten the hatches, but spare some time to look for ideas to help you plan for the coming season.

**Growing Perfect Vegetables, Mel Bartholomew Foundation (Cool Springs Press, £11.99)**

Dedicated to Mel Bartholomew, the founder of Square Foot Gardening, this book in his honour aims to guide you towards limiting harvests to what you can realistically use and how you can produce more ripe edibles per square foot than you did previously, with less work. Featuring most of the types of veg you're going to grow, easy-to-follow guidelines on how to grow them and great emphasis on how you tell when they're ripe and how to store them.

**Plant Love by Alys Fowler (Kyle, £18.99)**

Don't let your houseplants wilt and fade away. You have all the advice you need from BBC Gardeners' World presenter Alys Fowler on a plethora of plants from aloes to dragon plants, jasmine, spider plants, cactis and yuccas, whether they need sun or shade, how much watering, how to divide them and increase your stock, how often to repot and what make them straggly. Use this book and you shouldn't have a withering houseplant in sight.

**The Living Jigsaw by Val Bourne (Royal Botanic Gardens, £20)**

Insect lovers and wildlife fans should lap up this informative tome from award-winning garden writer Val Bourne, who explains the importance of the balance of nature and how to manage your garden for wildlife. She shows how beneficial insects and predators are interdependent parts of the same food chain.



Amaryllis are a good choice for novice gardeners to grow

# Time to grow container bulbs ahead of Christmas

GROWING bulbs in containers to enjoy in the home at Christmas is one of the seasonal traditions that a lot of gardeners really enjoy, but it does take a little bit of planning.

For bulbs to be in flower for Christmas you need to plant them in pots now - and two favourites are the Amaryllis and Paperwhite.

Hippeastrum, commonly known as Amaryllis, have large flowers and are easy to grow which makes them a popular choice for novice gardeners. They are tender plants so are best grown indoors and generally flower within six to ten weeks of being planted. They come in a variety of colours - red, white, pink, salmon and orange - and there are many striped and multicoloured varieties, usually combining shades of pink or red with white. You should grow amaryllis in a pot only slightly bigger than the bulb itself. Use multipurpose compost and plant the bulb so that about a third remains above the compost surface. Water the compost lightly and place in a warm, bright and draught-free position. As the amaryllis bulb starts to grow, keep the compost

moist but don't let it sit in water. It's a good idea to turn the pot regularly which will prevent the flower stem bending towards the light. As soon as the flowers start to open, move your amaryllis plant to a cooler position to prolong its flowering period.

Paperwhites are pretty, sweet-smelling, small flowered daffodils that produce an avalanche of pure white, paper thin flowers. More at home in the Mediterranean region, they have become a fragrant addition to the home in the UK.

To grow Narcissus "PaperWhite" make sure you buy bulbs sold for growing as pot plants indoors. Use any good multi-purpose compost or bulb fibre and plant several bulbs in each pot, packed closely together, with their tips just below the surface of the compost. Water well, but be careful not to over-water. Place in a cool place for about eight weeks, check regularly to see if the soil has dried out, before watering. At the beginning of December bring the pot into a warm position for the best flowering.

Sara Milne - The Potted Garden

# Small can be beautiful for evergreen conifers

Report by Hannah Stephenson

**CONIFERS used to be seen as dull, boring and way too tall - think Leylandii and you get my drift - but so many new varieties are now on the market that you can add colour, architecture and form to your garden when everything else has entered winter dormancy.**

Garden centres are now awash with more compact conifers, as National Conifer Week aims to demonstrate the variety and colours available and what you can do with them.

Derek Spicer, chairman of the British Conifer Society and owner of Kilworth Conifers, said: "We have between 3,500 and 4,000 varieties and we are finding that the dwarf range we do is becoming much more popular. People are putting dwarf conifers with alpines and in rock gardens."

New and colourful varieties are starting to appear, he said. "There are in particular a lot of Phillyrea occidentalis cultivars, which offer golden colour and varying degrees of rates of growth. But they don't suffer much from plant diseases."

You can add colour to the darkest scene with an array of conifers, he said. "There are some superb colours around now, mostly golds, but a few things which turn bronze or a reddish colour."

## CREATE COLOURFUL HEDGING

Create hedging out of conifers to provide natural barriers, privacy and a great backdrop to other planting.

"Thuja occidentalis 'Degroot's Spire' will make a very narrow hedge, will grow to a couple of metres in 10 years and is easy to trim. There's a really bright gold form of the Western Red Cedar, Thuja plicata 'Goldy', which is quite vigorous but very amenable to trimming.

"Try Thuja occidentalis 'Smaragd' - it's Dutch for emerald - which is an upright, very narrow conifer with fine green foliage. It's ideal for a suburban hedge, as it has a naturally tight growing habit. We have two or three golden forms of that, including 'Golden Smaragd', 'Golden Anne' and a dwarf called 'Filips Magic Moment', which should only need pruning at the top."

## FOR SMALLER GARDENS

Favourites include Picea glauca 'Jalako Gold', Taxus baccata 'Standishii', Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Nana Gracilis', Picea pungens 'Glob-osa' and Chamaecyparis lawsoniana 'Minima Aurea'.

## GO POTTY

"Traditionally people have used the old Lawson cypress 'Ellwoodii', but I don't they'd stand in a container for a long time because people don't tend to water them enough," says Derek. "You get to late spring and a dry spell and no one realises things are getting dry. Conifers suffer if they dry



This spectacular display of conifers in a garden makes for a fine display



A closeup of a beautiful juniper tree branch



Small conifers can be planted in containers

out. Better choices might be pines and if you went for a slower growing pine you've got an architectural form rather than a bolt upright type."

Regular upright conifers for pots would be underplanted with pansies or other spring-flowering plants, which can then be replaced with summer bedding to extend the season. The conifer can just remain in the pot.

## SHAPELY PYRAMIDS AND GLOBES

Beautifully shaped conifers can make stand-alone features on a patio or in the

middle of a lawn or be put with other formal evergreens to create sharp architectural features. Spherical or bun-shaped conifers create punctuation points at the edge of a border or at either side of entrances. They can also provide a great contrasting shape in a border of dainty perennials.

## FILL SPACE IN BORDERS

"I would put a number in rather than just one, mainly to give a bit more continuity. Conifers lend themselves to a formal design at the back or dotted around. Alternatively, if you have a formal garden, put an informal

array of conifers in, in different shapes and sizes."

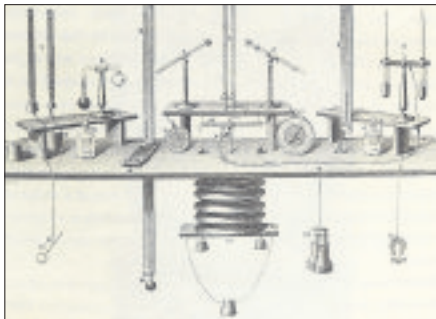
Cryptomerias (Japanese cedar) should be considered, he suggests. C. 'Elegans' changes colour strongly in the winter (to purple and red), but it is a very vigorous grower. However, you can trim it and hack lumps off it and you won't hurt it. There are slightly more compact versions you can buy including C. 'Elegans Compacta' and 'Elegans Nana', available from specialists.

National Conifer Week will run until Saturday (October 7).

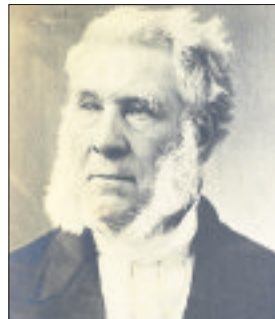




An illustration showing the dramatic incident in the balloon, when Henry Coxwell tried to release gas, after Glaisher passed out five miles up in the air



An illustration of some of Glaisher's monitoring equipment



James Glaisher, who died aged 93



Ali Glaisher with a copy of her explorer ancestor's book

# Epic balloon journey by Victorian adventurer was Mammoth effort

IT was a record that was set on September 5, 1862 and remains unbroken to this day.

James Glaisher and Henry Tracey Coxwell set off from Wolverhampton's Stafford Road works in their aptly-named balloon, the Mammoth.

Climbing higher and higher, using the gas from the works, Glaisher diligently recorded the atmospheric variables – from the temperature to the wind speed – before quite suddenly, passing out.

Coxwell, the pilot, managed to release the gas in a frantic attempt to get the balloon lower.

The pair had managed to reach a staggering altitude of 37,000 feet, all without oxygen.

Glaisher was so committed to his work, that once he woke up again from his near-death state, he merely went back to recording the variables again.

In fact, the pair were so typically stiff-upper-lip, that they flew the bal-

## MEMORY LANE

Report by Jessica Labhart

loon to Shropshire, landing in a field before walking a mile to the nearest pub for a well-deserved pint.

Glaisher is the great, great, great uncle of Wolverhampton's Ali Glaisher, who lives just a stone's throw away from where the pair set off all those years ago. Ali, aged 65, a wildlife conservationist with Staffordshire County Council, said: "We always knew about James and what he got up to. I think he was very phlegmatic – quite calm and unemotional. His records of the flight show the moment he stopped recording – which is actually the moment he nearly died – and the moment he picked up his pen again to continue writing."

Now, an exhibition about the flight is to be accompanied by performances of creative works inspired by the pioneering mission. Wolverhampton Archives is appealing for people to

get in touch to provide their creative response to the story of Glaisher and Coxwell, be it in the form of poetry, plays or visual art.

Ali said: "I had no idea how important he was to Wolverhampton until I moved here in 1999. That's when I realised that he had the streets by the Science Park named after him, Coxwell and the balloon, and there was a blue plaque commemorating them."

"There's even a beautiful silver-backed clock in Bantock House which has engravings of Nelson's Column and Snowdon and shows how far they both went up in their balloon."

James Glaisher, who was originally from London and worked for the Greenwich Royal Observatory, wanted to find out what happened to the water vapour as it rose into the atmosphere. Ali said: "They chose Wolverhampton as the base as it was in the middle of the country to them, enough inland so that they didn't risk being blown out to sea."

The Mammoth balloon was 55 feet in diameter, and 80 feet high. On

the day, they reached two miles in the air in just under 20 minutes, and the temperature was at freezing point. Almost half an hour later, they had achieved five miles in the air. It was at 29,000 feet that Glaisher passed out. From this mission, the pair realised that, as they went higher there was less moisture in the atmosphere. This discovery alone changed the way the Victorians and indeed we, understand how and where clouds form, and it advanced our understanding of rain.

It has since been deemed one of the greatest missions of Victorian exploration.

James Glaisher died aged 93 in 1903 in Croydon. Now, the performances inspired by the mission will take place in the Rocco room at Wolverhampton City Archives based at Molineux Hotel on November 4. Wolverhampton poet, Emma Purshouse will choose the poetry and playwright Jefny Ashcroft the short drama pieces. To take part and submit work, send a 150-word outline via email to drama@jefny.org.uk by 5pm on October 21.

## ADVERTISEMENT

# Former midwife's smile reborn

*'I'd grown tired of living my life around my teeth'*

Former Dudley community midwife Vicki Ball, left, is full of smiles after getting new teeth and an implant solution to a long-standing stabilisation problem. 'I love my new teeth,' she says

have done more to save her own teeth.

"For the last 18 months I've put up with ill-fitting and badly made dentures. My gums were always sore and the bottom denture was unstable.

## Researching options

"My top teeth I could secure with a fixative, but for the bottom it was a waste of time – as soon as I had anything to eat the stability was over," says Vicki.

Her diet became restricted, avoiding beef and crispy fruits like apples.

Frustrated by the appearance and function of her teeth – they seemed to be set too far back, Vicki says – she started researching her options.

"I'd grown tired of living my whole life

around my teeth. I never really stopped going out, but when I did, I was always thinking ahead where I could go to take my teeth out. They were just so uncomfortable." A self-confessed lover of travel overseas – "it's my hobby" – Vicki saw an article in her local newspaper about Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) and his work at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

features. "From start to finish it took 14 weeks, but it was worth the wait. When I first saw my teeth in the mirror, I thought they looked just like real teeth and . . . they feel like my own teeth.

## Such a relief

"My husband, Terry, couldn't believe they were so good. Not to have to keep thinking about my teeth when I'm out is such a relief," she says.

Steven says: "Mrs Ball needed dentures that would offer proper support to her facial features.

"These days the term 'facelift' dentures is banded about. The claim is spurious, but with the correct setting of teeth, the effect is to lift the facial structures in the same way natural healthy gums and teeth support tissues and muscles. I'm very please to have been part of giving a new birth to the Vicki's smile."



North Street's dental implant surgeon, Dr Owain Rees (left) BDS, DGDIP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61576 with principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353

"I'd seen a piece about suction dentures and implant retained dentures and there seemed to be a solution for me," she says.

After seeing Steven and implant surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDIP (UK) DIP IMP DENT (UCL), Vicki's treatment included two implants to stabilise a lower over denture and the prescribing of high quality traditional upper dentures to help support her facial

Predictably reassuring

**MEETING Vicki Ball is all about the smiles – lots of them. She's generous with her compliments, can't wait for her next holiday adventure and has the most infectious of laughs.**

Her company is light and she's gushing with the praise about her new look.

A retired community midwife who was based at the former Wordsley Hospital, the bubbly 60-something-year-old is quick to affirm: "I love my new teeth and they look natural, don't they?"

Adding: "You can't tell they're not my own," Vicki admits her smile has not always been

her favourite attribute. "I've always had trouble with my teeth; even as a young girl they crumbled and my gums used to bleed. Even though I was diligent about looking after them, they still let me down," she adds.

Two years ago, Vicki finally lost her remaining teeth. "I really don't know why my teeth were so bad, but I was the youngest of eight children and I understand my mother's priorities did not include teaching me how to brush my teeth. She had more pressing priorities of how she was going to put food on the table," Vicki recalls.

A teenager by the time she had her first tooth brush, she is convinced she couldn't

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# Pooh's home untouched by impact of tourism

Report by Hannah Stephenson

**THERE'S** no shortage of British locations which have become well-trodden tourist paths thanks to their celebrated authors – Haworth for the Bronte sisters, Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon, Wordsworth's Lake District.

But just 40 miles from London, Ashdown Forest in East Sussex – where scenes from the film Goodbye Christopher Robin were shot and where Winnie-the-Pooh creator AA Milne and his son Christopher Robin had their happiest times – has remained blissfully unmarred by tourism.



## ON THE POOH TRAIL

Today, AA Milne's biographer Ann Thwaite, the film's consultant, is helping me retrace the steps that father and son took in the 1920s on their many walks along this 10 square mile stretch of countryside, the little boy carrying his eponymous bear and his innocent pals Piglet, Tigger, Rabbit, Kanga, Roo, Owl and Eeyore.

Yet there's not a sign, a playground, or any hint of a Disney-esque homage to the most famous bear in the world in sight, as we venture into this gloriously untouched ancient forest, much of which is tranquil, open heathland.

Anyone who doesn't know of Ashdown Forest's connection with Winnie-the-Pooh or his creator will be little the wiser once in the "Hundred Acre Wood" which in reality called the Five Hundred Acre Wood.

## A FOREST UNTOUCHED

Ann, a sprightly 84-year-old and expert on all things AA Milne, takes fans on the paths trodden by the most lucrative children's author in the world.

"I always get lost," she confesses. "You see groups of scouts doing orienteering, but there's a little model of Winnie-the-Pooh in every corner guiding them."

"The landscape hasn't changed in all those years," she continues. "You can't even hear any traffic. It's very sandy, too. There's a scene in Winnie-the-Pooh when Roo is playing in a sandpit, and if you look at the books you can see where Shepard (illustrator EH Shepard) was drawing the actual place."

She leads us to a shady circle of pine trees in Gills Lap (renamed Galleons Lap in the books), in Milne's words an "enchanted place" which is apparently popular with fans, but there's no one here today.

Just out of the trees, there's the most spectacular view from the High Weald of the Downs, a patchwork quilt of green fields, divided by forest, with hardly a trace of visible civilisation. It's where AA Milne took his son on walks for precious time out and where he later took his illustrator, Ernest Shepard, who recreated Ashdown as the background in the Pooh books.

On the rock where they sat – and where the actors who play them are featured in the film – there's a commemorative plaque to AA Milne and EH Shepard who "captured the magic of Ashdown Forest."

## THE FAMOUS POOH BRIDGE

The most visible sign that we are in Pooh territory is a wooden signpost to Pooh Bridge, which features in the film. Here we stand, twigs at the ready, chucking the thin wooden sticks in the river – a tributary of the Medway – before darting to the other side to see whose twig appears first.

Christopher Milne, who died in 1996, did much for the restoration of the bridge, Ann recalls. "He also led the fight to save the forest from development and oil exploration," she said. "He said he took the playground of his Sussex childhood with him wherever he went."

Today, the area is highly protected, Thwaite observes, which is why there is no housing in the forest. The only sign of any building is the odd version of Eeyore's house in the woods, made from twigs and branches by those obviously on a family day out.

"The whole thing is a celebration of outdoor play and imagination," Ann enthuses. "Christopher Robin, the real boy, was very keen on climbing trees. Trees were a very important part of his life and the great outdoors was a great therapy for Milne when the whole of England was trying to recover from the effect of war."



Super stylish – Hotel Felix in Cambridge



Enjoy a relax boat trip on the River Cam



Plush place – striking décor in the restaurant

# Taking a punt on a visit to Cambridge

## SPECIAL REPORT

Report by Diane Davies

**TRAFFIC, trains and towers of grey concrete – all symbols of the soul-crushing daily grind we endure each day in modern suburbia.**

Imagine escaping this urban misery to a place where travel usually involves a bike, congestion is an out-of-control tourist in a punt and everywhere you look is an architectural triumph, oozing hundreds of years history.

Could there be such a Utopia of tranquillity? There is indeed – and only a couple of hours drive from the Midlands – Cambridge.

With only the boat race and University Challenge as a point of reference prior to visiting, my preconceptions of Cambridge conjured up images of Hoaray Henrys lining the riverbanks quaffing bubbly at pricey bars.

These misconceptions were quickly dispelled as we explored this wonderful city which actually has something for everyone – regardless of age, background or budget.

Whether it be soaking up the sun alongside the river, discovering some of its fascinating history, shopping at a range of top stores or enjoying a varied dining experience – Cambridge has the lot.

Our little retreat was enhanced by our accommodation – at the indulgently relaxing and stunningly stylish Hotel Felix. The hotel enjoys a picturesque spot just over a mile outside Cambridge – a 25-minute pleasant walk. Many people opt to cycle into the city centre of course and there is an abundance of cycle lanes providing safer biking. The hotel can offer discounted bike hire. The hotel is a five-minute drive from the city but beware, some of the town centre car parks charge £25 for stays over five hours.

We quite enjoyed the leisurely stroll along the flat, straight road – when we could tear ourselves away from the hotel that is.

The four-star boutique hotel is formed from a Victorian villa overlooking a garden terrace and spacious, landscaped gardens. It is the perfect setting for al fresco dining or a cold drink watching the sun go down.

It does have a contemporary feel, however, and a unique selling point for this hotel has to be the award-winning Graffiti Restaurant. The vibrant, striking décor in the restaurant is quite hypnotic and the impressive artworks command attention.



Tourist trap – soak up the historical sights on a trip to the city of Cambridge

If the décor wasn't incredible enough – the food is amazing. The hotel boasts of a reputation for serving seasonally-inspired modern British food with an Italian influence.

There are 52 rooms from standard to the lavish junior suites – you have not lived until you have enjoyed a bath with built-in TV!

Cambridge itself is, of course, steeped in history and most famous for the university. If you fancy a tour of the colleges you need only catch the eye of one of the many tour operators waving clipboards around.

But if you choose to see only one it should be King's College and chapel. King Henry VI laid the foundation stone of the college in 1441, founding both this and Eton College.

Demanding the building be without equal in grandeur, he drew up detailed plans but his murder in the Tower of London in 1471 meant the completion of the college fell to subsequent kings, with the magnificent chapel the

product of three periods of construction. The ambitious fan vault ceiling is the largest of its kind in the world and quite breath-taking. Whichever college you visit be warned – grass is sacred, only senior members of the colleges and their guests may walk on the grass.

A charming way to see the universities is by punt down the 'Backs'. During our stay Hotel Felix was offering all guests a free tour with Scudamores Punts, one of the larger companies.

Their tours cover a one-mile section of the River Cam known as the College Backs giving a riverside view of some of Cambridge's finest buildings including King's College, the Bridge of Sighs, and the [Sir Christopher] Wren Library.

Cambridge truly is an escape from the daily grind – so if you are looking for a breath of fresh air I would definitely take a punt on Cambridge.

# Christmas coming to town in a big way in Zurich



Ice skating at Zurcher Wientachtsdorf

**COULD** there be anything more opulent than a Christmas tree covered in 7,000 glittering Swarovski crystal ornaments?

Anywhere else it might seem an ostentatious display, but it's a rather fitting showpiece in Zurich's Hauptbahnhof Christmas market, Christkindlimarkt, in Switzerland's fashionable financial capital, writes Nick McAvaney.

Divine boutiques on every corner sell cutting-edge fashion and designer homewares, while sharply dressed locals stroll through the markets, considering classic wooden toys, sumptuous chocolate

or unique jewellery for Christmas gifts. There's no tacky plastic rubbish here.

Starting my journey at the central station market, it reminds me of the traditional Christmas markets found across Germany, albeit with a Swiss twist.

Avenues of wooden huts surround the crystal Christmas tree, and spiced apple or orange punch is as popular as mulled wine (Gluhwein).

Across the other side of the city, Sechselautenplatz hosts the largest market and is certainly a favourite with children. They skip around me on their way to a skating path, a course running around a small house and along fir tree-lined alleys on the southern edge of the market. Adults clearly enjoy it too.

No Christmas kitsch here either, as the 100-odd stalls across the square have locally sourced designer and artisan goods on sale, alongside a surprisingly multicultural range of cuisine.

Aromas from curries, stir fries, burgers and pasta fill the air as I make a bee-line for the fondue chalet, hoping to tuck into a raclette and beer. But I'm told that due to popular demand, tables need to be reserved days in advance.

Over the river at Werdmühleplatz I make it just in time for a truly unique event, Zurich's singing Christmas tree. A dozen choristers take to a vertical triangle-shaped podium to serenade their audience with festive hits. It's an enchanting end to my evening.





## CHANGE OF PACE FOR HAIRSPRAY

PAGE 2

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If you're just looking for a bite to eat, we have a selection of bar snacks available which can be washed down with a beer, wine, cider or spirit of your choice in a beautiful location. Remember us if you're hosting a party, we have a function room ready and waiting. Just ask us for further information regarding catering and disco hire; we have plenty of contacts to help get the party in full swing!



So, whether you're looking for somewhere to meet with family and friends, have a bite to eat, enjoy some live music or challenge yourself with a classic pub quiz, the Samson and Lion has something to offer everyone.

**We look forward to seeing you soon!**





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# It's the perfect Pace for a big old Hairspray 'do'

**H**e's sitting in a pub in Lytham St Anne's. Norman Pace is chipper. The actor and comedian who is best known as one half of the comedy duo Hale and Pace has as much work as he would care for and is at peace with the world.

He's presently on the road in Hairspray, the 15-minute blitzkrieg of scintillating fabulousness. The all-singing, all-dancing, all-action musical is set in Baltimore, 1962. It tells the story Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger dream: to dance her way onto national TV, and into the heart of teen idol Link Larkin. Tracy's audition makes her a local star and soon she is using her new-found fame to fight for integration. But can she win equality – and Link's heart – without denting her 'do'?

The feel-good musical features the hit songs Welcome To The 60s, You Can't Stop The Beat, The Nicest Kids in Town and many more and has Norman smiling each and every night.

"I have to say that I know Hairspray is a very good show but this really is a tremendous production. Drew McOnie is the go-to choreographer in Broadway and the West End and has worked on this.

"They really pulled out all the stops to get the right people for the show. They went through 1,600 hopefuls before they settled on the 32 people that you see on on stage. It's my first time in it and I'm loving it. A few of the guys have done this before but I'm the new boy, which is funny, since I'm also by far the oldest."

Reaching the tender age of 64 – amid a cast of 20-somethings – is great fun for Norman. Being around the younger generation keeps him young.

"I love being with the kids. Their enthusiasm and joie de vivre is inspiring. I get up at the end of the show and we do You Can't Stop The Beat. I love it. I do it eight times a week. Before I start, I know the audiences will love it and go mad. We've done 40-odd shows and every one has been a standing ovation.

"Seriously, you couldn't wish for a better group. Last night, after the show in Blackpool, one of the guys from the show said he knew a bloke who'd got a pub that did live music. Out of the 55 people on tour, 40 people turned up and we had a great night. The band got up and entertained us. It's brilliant fun."

Norman has to pinch himself when he considers the number of years he's successfully spent in showbusiness. The former teacher has been treading the

Dare to dream – Norman Pace stars in the feel-good musical



boards for 36 years – many of them with his friend and comic partner Gareth Hale. They recently recorded four episodes of ITV's Benidorm, spending 10 weeks in Spain with Shropshire actor John Challis, among others.

And yet for Norman, all roads lead to the Black Country. Though he grew up in Newark-on-Trent, in Nottinghamshire, his heart belongs to Dudley.

"My granny and grandad lived in Dudley. When my mother was pregnant with me at the age of 18, she went to Dudley to have the baby. I think there was some sort of scandal because of the Catholic Church – if it wasn't for the church, I wouldn't be here. They didn't do such things as abortion back then.

So mum tried to pull a fast one and had me in Dudley then I'd visit my granny and grandad on holidays. They lived on Blowers Green Crescent, I still remember it now.

"There were slag heaps that were turned into football pitches and I'd go there until about the age of ten. The family were West Brom fans and took me to the Hawthorns to cheer on the Baggies. They were happy times. I felt very loved when I visited the Black Country."

Fame came calling for Hale and Pace when they worked together on a series of comedy shows, as well as featuring in Dalziel and Pascoe, guest starring in the Doctor Who serial Survival and featuring in a Christmas Special of Extras. "It was a joyride. The whole thing was

thrilling and we didn't have a minute to stop and think about it. If Gareth and I weren't making the TV series, we'd be touring. In every spare moment we'd be writing and we were even stupid enough to go on holiday together as families.

"The only downside about that experience was losing your privacy. At the petrol station, a queue of people would look at you like you were in a goldfish bowl. I'm under the radar these days and there are times when I grow a beard and people don't recognise me. It used to be that you'd get people arguing about which one you were. But it's no big deal. I had my taste of that life and it was intense. I can understand why film stars have people to fill their car up for them. Can you imagine what would happen if Rod Stewart was on the forecourt at Morrisons?"

Norman has no plans to slow down. There's no exit strategy, no secret yearning for a quieter life, no intention of upping sticks and moving to somewhere quieter.

"The laughter is what keeps you coming back. Even now, after all these years, if you're good at it and have a lot of experience and have enjoyed a long career, you can still learn a lot of things about how to do it better. I always want to beat the laughter I got last night, I want to keep moving forward."

He loves the fact that he's been able to play both TV and theatre during a starry career. He's worked with tremendous actors down the decades and their skills have helped him to develop.

For now, all thoughts are of Hairspray. "It's great bringing the show to Birmingham because Dudley's only just down the road and that's always been special to me. I'm hoping that people from Dudley and Wolves will pop over and say hello."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



Kara Lily Hayworth as Cilla Black



# Step inside for musical story of singing star Cilla

LEADING lady in Cilla The Musical, Kara Lily Hayworth, beat thousands of hopefuls to be named as the girl to step into the Liverpool legend's shoes in the first musical about the star's life, at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre next week.

Cilla The Musical, which began its tour in Liverpool last month, is an adaptation of the critically acclaimed ITV mini-series based on the early life of Cilla Black, by BAFTA award-winner, Jeff Pope.

Kara queued for four hours at London's Dominion Theatre to have her chance to audition in the first rounds. She made it to a final audition at the Cavern Club in Liverpool. Executive producer Robert Willis, who is Cilla's son, said: 'We wanted somebody who wasn't going to impersonate my mum but someone

who could capture her spirit. Kara came in with her huge personality and amazing voice. When I saw the response of the audience at the Cavern, I knew we'd found her!'

From Watford, Kara trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama, and this will be her first leading role in a big musical. She even briefly met the 1960s pop star turned TV presenter, when the 11-year-old Kara got the Surprise Surprise host's autograph.

"She was a huge inspiration to me as a child," says Kara. "I grew up watching her on Blind Date every Saturday night with my Nan. To play her is such an honour."

The show is packed with 60s songs including Cilla's own hits, such as Anyone Who Had a Heart and Alfie.

# Gangsters, no, kids' TV did it for Coolio

He's a Grammy-award winning rapper, best known for his mega hit Gangsta's Paradise.

But 54-year-old Coolio has come a long way since the mid 90s. He's now a chef and activist for the environment and raising awareness of asthma, a TV and film star.

The Compton-born star (that's LA not Wolverhampton) will come to Arena Birmingham with I Love The 90s on Saturday which Coolio says is the greatest tour of his career. Joining him will be fellow 90s stars Vanilla Ice, Salt N Peppa, Color Me Badd, Tone Loc and Young MC.

"This tour is really great. Everybody knows each other, and have done for so many years; it's like going on tour with your family," he said.

"It's an amazing show. This is one of the best tours of my career. There's just non-stop involvement and dancing.

"I've always had a good time in the UK. I can't think of a bad time I've had there. At the beginning of my career, there may have been a few mishaps. But people have always treated me well there and I've done shows pretty much everywhere in the UK."

Coolio has not only made his

name as a rap artist, but also as a writer of theme songs, having rapped the theme tune to children's TV show Kenan and Kel, which also opened up the world of acting to the Californian. Since then, he's had parts in Adult Swim TV show Black Jesus and Daredevil, as well as taking part in UK reality show Celebrity Big Brother and game show Tipping Point.

"Kenan and Kel, believe it or not, has turned out to be the one of the most important things I've done in my career. Just as much as Gangsta's Paradise," added Coolio.



# Greg puts Brum to task in festival

A host of comic talent is gathering for Birmingham Comedy Festival at various venues. Highlights include Taskmaster's Greg Davies, right, at Symphony Hall Monday and Tuesday. Brum's Joe Lycett joins Yardley MP Jess Phillips at the Town Hall on Wednesday. Henning Wehn proves Germans have a sense of humour at the Town Hall next Friday and Saturday. Other acts include Matt Lucas, Simon Amstell, Phill Jupitus and Zoe Lyons. See [www.bhamcomfest.co.uk](http://www.bhamcomfest.co.uk)



# Powerhouse trio Yak back for home city gig

FEROCIOUS London-based rock trio Yak, fronted by Wolverhampton's Oli Burslem, have a rare gig in his home city at Newhampton Arts Centre on Thursday, October 12. Gigs at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms include rockers Arcane Roots tomorrow (Friday), blues singer Rebecca Downes on Saturday, acclaimed guitarist Andy McKee on Sunday, Nottingham's Amber Run play Tuesday and Broken Witt Rebels next Friday.

US country star Marty Stuart is at Birmingham Town Hall tomorrow, Wolverhampton's Beverley Knight brings soul to Symphony Hall on Sunday. Country-pop outfit Lady Antebellum play Birmingham Arena on Monday, the same night Nick Mulvey is at O2 Institute in Digbeth. Dweezil Zappa celebrates father Frank's legacy at Birmingham Town Hall on Thursday.

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CHOICE



Ross Sutherland

**Basquiat - Rage to Riches (BBC2, 9pm)**  
Documentary, exploring the rise in profile of the output of American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, whose work is currently the subject of a large-scale exhibition at the Barbican in London - the first time a wholly Basquiat collection has been displayed in the UK. This film serves as a portrait of Jean-Michel's origins, making use of interviews with his sisters Lisane and Jeanine, along with accounts from his friends, confidants, lovers and contemporaries, to detail how a self-taught, Brooklyn-born artist came to rank alongside the likes of Picasso, de Kooning and Francis Bacon on the international art marketplace - 29 years after his death.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Hairys Bikers' Comfort Food. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Gymnastics: World Championships. **2.45** Film: Muppets Most Wanted. (2014) Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais. **4.25** Chris Coleman: Dare to Dream. **5.25** BBC News. **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities.  
**6.35** **Strictly Come Dancing**. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as the pro-celebrity dance competition continues. Last week, the couples were given their first taste of the pressures of avoiding elimination, and the tension does not let up as the second round of the competition proper gets under way with Movie Week. As in previous competitions, the 14 duos are challenged to come up with routines that pay homage to Hollywood's greatest films, and they begin with a group performance that serves as a tribute to recent smash-hit musical La La Land. As always, Shirley Ballas, Craig Revel Horwood, Bruno Tonioli and Darcey Bussell are on hand to deliver their verdict on the stars' performances, before handing over judging duties to viewers at home, who will get a chance to have their say over which performers to back ahead of the results show.  
**8.40** **Casualty**. Dylan is forced to bring Santos into the Emergency Department, much to David's dismay, and Lily grows ever more jealous of the bond forming between Iain and Sam. Meanwhile, Connie struggles to deal with the severity of her diagnosis, and tries to come to terms with what it means for her future.  
**9.30** **Mrs Brown's Boys**. Agnes and the Brown family await the fruits of their fraud after faking Grandad's death to get a payout, but the insurance company starts to grow suspicious. (R)  
**10.00** BBC News. Weather. National Lottery Update.  
**10.20** **Film: Thor: The Dark World**. (2013) The thunder god joins forces with his treacherous brother to defend the universe against an old foe. Superhero adventure sequel, with Chris Hemsworth.  
**12.05** The NFL Show. **12.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.40** BBC News.

BBC2

**7.10** **Film**: Hans Christian Andersen. (1952) **9.00** Saturday Mash-Up! **11.00** Natural World. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's Long Weekends. (R) **1.00** Railways of the Great War with Michael Portillo. (R) **1.30** Flog It! (R) **2.30** Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands. (R) **3.30** India: Nature's Wonderland. (R) **4.30** Mastermind. (R) **5.00** The Big Family Cooking Showdown. (R)  
**6.00** **Anglesey: Island Life**. New series. The lives of some of the residents of Wales' largest island, including Mike Williams, who is trying to get his smoke-damaged shop back on its feet.  
**6.30** **Gardeners' World**. Monty Don gives advice on making leaf mould from fallen leaves and how to use it. Frances Tophill helps a gardener whose plants are not thriving where they are planted. (R)  
**7.30** **Front Row**. Harrison Ford and Ryan Gosling discuss Blade Runner 2049. Ian McKellen offers a masterclass in playing Shakespeare's King Lear, and Tim Minchin performs live in the studio.  
**8.00** **Britain Afloat**. Mary-An Ochota tells the story of river boats in Britain, reaching back through time to investigate the ancient coracle, which is thought to have been in use for 40,000 years.  
**8.30** **Dad's Army**. Warden Hodges challenges Captain Mainwaring's platoon to a cricket match. Featuring a guest appearance by former England and Yorkshire fast bowler Fred Trueman. (R)  
**9.00** **Basquiat - Rage to Riches**. Documentary, profiling the rise in profile of the work of American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, via interviews with his sisters, friends, confidants, lovers and contemporaries.  
**10.30** **Performance Live: Missing Episode**. Ross Sutherland's audio-visual poem, which remixes an edition of EastEnders from October 7, 1997 to tell the story of what happened to the poet the night that episode first aired.  
**11.00** **Later - with Jools Holland**. The pianist welcomes the National back to the show, along with Morrissey, Queens of the Stone Age, Khalid, Jessie Ware and Marty Stuart.  
**12.05** **Film**: Bright Days Ahead. (2013) **1.35** **Film**: A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square. (1979)

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Mission: Impossible. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. **7.50** Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** Saturday Morning with James Martin. **11.20** Midsomer Murders. (R) **1.10** ITV News. Weather. **1.15** Catchphrase. (R) **2.00** The Chase. (R) **2.55** The X Factor: Bootcamp. (R) **4.25** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **4.50** Little Big Shots. (R) **5.50** Regional Programme. Weather.  
**6.00** **ITV News**. Weather.  
**6.15** **Cannonball**. Andrew Flintoff hosts the action-packed game show, in which contestants tackle a series of water-based, obstacle course challenges in the hope of claiming the Cannonball Cup.  
**7.10** **The Family Chase**. Bradley Walsh hosts one final round of the family-themed edition of the game show. This time, the Price clan from Oldham makes a bid to outplay one of the resident professional quizzers. Last in the series.  
**8.15** **The X Factor: Bootcamp**.  
**9.45** **The Jonathan Ross Show**. Game of Thrones star Kit Harington joins Jonathan in the studio, and while he will no doubt be talked into chatting about the shocking developments for his character Jon Snow at the end of the show's penultimate series, discussion is likely to fall on the fact that he is starring as Robert Catesby - his own ancestor - opposite fellow guest Iain Turner in the BBC's historical drama Gunpowder later this autumn. Also taking a seat on the sofa this evening are former Great British Bake Off presenter Sue Perkins, Grammy Award-winning singer Mary J Blige, and comedian Rob Beckett.  
**10.45** **ITV News**. Weather.  
**11.05** **Film: American Pie: The Wedding**. (2003) The friends reunite to celebrate Jim and Michelle's forthcoming trip to the altar - but events quickly spiral out of control. Comedy sequel, with Jason Biggs and Alyson Hannigan.  
**12.50** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.15** Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.45** Triathlon: Stoke on Trent City of Sport. **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Crystal Maze. (R) **1.00** Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **2.30** World's Most Expensive Cars. **3.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.35** Location, Location, Location. (R)  
**6.30** **Channel 4 News**.  
**7.00** **Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson**. The Time Team veteran continues his journeys down some of the UK's oldest trackways and roads. This time, he visits the Peak District, where he ventures along the Derbyshire Portway, which is believed to date from the Bronze Age, and can be traced from Mam Tor in the north of the county, through to the Hemlock Stone on the edge of Nottingham. Along the way, he examines a prehistoric shark tooth, shines a light in an abandoned railway tunnel and takes a tour of DH Lawrence's mountain retreat.  
**8.00** **WWII's Great Escapes: The Freedom Trails**. Monty Halls travels along the ridges of the French Pyrenees mountains on the border with Spain, which were traversed by thousands of people seeking to escape Nazi occupation.  
**9.00** **Film: Escape Plan**. (2013) An expert takes a contract from the CIA to test a maximum security prison by trying to break out of it, but he soon discovers he has been duped and that his captors intend him to stay inside for ever. He hatches a plan to escape, but to succeed he will need the help of a long-term convict - who wants his own freedom in return for assistance. Thriller, with Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger.  
**11.15** **Film: The Gunman**. (2015) After spending years in hiding, a mercenary becomes the latest target of his former colleagues. Crime drama, starring Sean Penn and Idris Elba.  
**1.20** The Last Leg. (R) **2.20** Hollyoaks. **4.30** Building the Dream. (R) **5.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **5.55** Kevin Can Wait.

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.20** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **11.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.50** Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) **2.50** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **3.50** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.50** News Weekend. **4.55** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.50** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **6.50** **Film: Where Eagles Dare**. (1968) An American general is held captive by the Nazis in a heavily defended fortress in the Alps. A crack team of British soldiers and an American lieutenant are dispatched to free him, but they soon realise there is a traitor in their ranks. Second World War adventure, starring Richard Burton, Clint Eastwood, Patrick Wymark, Michael Hordern and Mary Ure.  
**9.45** **Live Boxing: York Hall Bravol**. Andrew Selby v Maximino Flores. Coverage of the WBC world flyweight eliminator, which takes place at York Hall in Bethnal Green. Welshman Selby is undefeated thus far in his fledgling career, having won all nine of his previous bouts, with five of them being by stoppage.  
**11.30** **Football on 5: Goal Rush**. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Doncaster Rovers v Southend United and Barnet v Coventry City.  
**12.15** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with an entertaining mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. Featuring a variety of prizes and promotions. **3.10** **Film: Love at the Parade**. (2012) The organiser of Chicago's Thanksgiving parade is furious when a consultant is brought in to take charge of the event's finances, thinking he is only interested in profit. But when she suffers an unexpected crisis, she finds support in her previously unwanted colleague, and begins to fall for him. Romantic drama, with Autumn Reeser and Antonio Cupo. **4.40** Divine Designs. Paul Binski investigates the period after the Second World War, which saw the birth of a modern style of ecclesiastical architecture. He visits Coventry and Chichester cathedrals to highlight the contemporary designs. (R) **5.05** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.30** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** The Incredible Human Journey **8.00** Wild China **9.00** Black Lake **10.25** James May: The Christmas Reassembler **10.55** James May: The Reassembler **11.25** British Sitcom: 80 Years of Laughing at Ourselves **12.25** Top of the Pops: 1984 **1.30** EMI: The Inside Story **2.30** Wild China **3.30** Close  
**ITV2**  
**11.25** The X Factor: Bootcamp **1.00** **Film**: The Lake House (2006) **2.00** FYI Daily **2.05** **Film**: The Lake House (2006) **3.05** **Film**: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10** **Film**: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **4.55** **Film**: Happy Feet (2006) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** **Film**: Happy Feet (2006) **7.00** **Film**: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10** **Film**: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **10.15** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** Family Guy **2.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**11.50** Bertie and Elizabeth **1.55** Rosemary & Thyme **2.55** Foyle's War **7.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.05** On the Buses **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV4**  
**11.30** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **1.00** Pawn Stars **1.30** **ITV** Racing: Live from Ascot. Coverage of today's meetings from Ascot, Newmarket and Redcar. **4.00** World Cup Top Goalscorers **4.10** Pawn Stars **5.10** Hornblower **7.25** World Cup Qualifier Live. Belarus v Netherlands (Kick-off 7.45pm). **10.00** River Monsters **11.00** World Cup Qualifier Highlights **12.30** The Sweeney **1.35** The Classic Car Show **2.25** The Car Chasers **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**12.00** The Big Bang Theory **3.00** Don't Tell the Bride **4.00** The Great British Bake Off **5.15** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film**: The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (2011) **11.20** Naked Attraction **12.30** Gogglebox  
**Film4**  
**11.00** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **1.00** The Boxtrolls (2014) **2.50** Parental Guidance (2012) **4.55** Crocodile Dundee (1986) **6.50** Crocodile Dundee II (1988) **9.00** Unbroken (2014) **11.40** Underworld: Awakening (2012) **1.20** White God (2014) **3.45** Close

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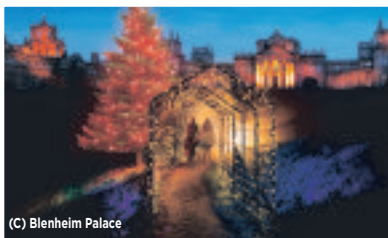
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SUNDAY'S TV OCTOBER 8

CHOICE



Louis Theroux

**Louis Theroux: Dark States - Heroin Town (BBC2, 9pm)**  
In Huntington, West Virginia, Louis Theroux embeds himself in an Appalachian community that is being devastated and stretched to its limits by widespread heroin use. He spends time with members of the user community that are caught in the grip of drug addiction, and follows the emergency services as they struggle to cope with multiple overdoses each day.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Points of View. **4.00** LifeLine. **4.10** Songs of Praise. **4.45** Who Do You Think You Are? (R) **5.45** BBC News.  
**6.05** Regional Programme.  
**6.15** Countryfile. Anita Rani and Matt Baker visit Dumfries House in East Ayrshire. They discover how the estate employs many local people and provides young people with a chance to develop traditional craft skills and work with the rare breed cattle on the house's farms. Plus, Charlotte Smith investigates how electric cars will be powered and Adam Henson checks up on his pregnant sheep and cows.  
**7.15** Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Claudia Winkleman and Tess Daly reveal the next couple to leave the contest.  
**8.00** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Nymans Gardens near Crawley. Items brought in to be valued include an axe used in one of George Mallory's ascents of Everest, a sofa that put in an appearance in a classic movie, a diver's watch and a bag of trinkets found on top of a wardrobe that turns out to contain something unexpected.  
**9.00** The Last Post. Mary goes into labour while her husband has left the city to rendezvous with the SAS, who are returning to Aden after a secret mission to capture a dangerous fugitive.  
**10.00** BBC News.  
**10.20** Regional Programme.  
**10.30** Sir Bobby Charlton at 80. Documentary celebrating the life and career of the former Manchester United footballer, who won the World Cup with England on home soil in 1966, as he approaches his 80th birthday.  
**11.35** The Women's Football Show. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.  
**12.10** The Graham Norton Show. (R) **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.25** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.25** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.25** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.55** Countryfile. (R) **9.50** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.20** Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking. (R) **11.50** My Life on a Plate. (R) **12.35** Alfred Hitchcock: Talking Pictures. (R) **1.15** Film: Dial M for Murder. (1954) Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Ray Milland. **3.00** Gymnastics: World Championships. **5.00** Rugby League Grand Final Highlights.  
**6.00** Top Gear. Rory Reid and Sabine Schmitz go in search of the latest supercars at Germany's Nurburgring circuit, while Matt LeBlanc test drives the Aston Martin DB11, but finds Chris Harris and his Mercedes causing no end of trouble. Tamsin Greig takes to the Top Gear Test Track as this week's Star in a Reasonably Fast Car. (R)  
**7.00** Russia with Simon Reeve. The adventurer embarks on a journey across the world's biggest country, taking him from the snow-capped volcanoes of the far east, through some of the remotest parts of the planet, to the great cities of the west, Moscow and St Petersburg. (R)  
**8.00** Dragons' Den. The panel assesses the profit-making potential of business plans for a range of eco mannequins, cork-based yoga mats, and a cycling navigation device. Presented by Evan Davis.  
**9.00** Louis Theroux: Dark States - Heroin Town. In Huntington, West Virginia, Louis Theroux embeds himself in an Appalachian community that is being devastated and stretched to its limits by widespread heroin use.  
**10.00** Snowfall. New series. An educated young man seeks a way to get on in life. Hard-hitting drama about the beginnings of the crack epidemic in 1980s Los Angeles. Damson Idris stars.  
**10.55** Mock the Week. Angela Barnes, Ed Byrne, Ed Gamble, Milton Jones and Nish Kumar join host Dara O Brain and regular Hugh Dennis for the topical comedy show. (R)  
**11.30** Film: Oranges and Sunshine. (2010) A social worker discovers thousands of British children have been sent to care homes in Australia and suffered abuse. Fact-based drama, starring Emily Watson.  
**1.10** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.10** Holby City. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Mission: Impossible. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** Amazing Animal Births. (R) **11.25** Robson Green's Coastal Lives. (R) **11.55** Bigheads. (R) **12.55** ITV News: Weather. **1.00** The Chase. (R) **2.00** The X Factor: Bootcamp. (R) **3.30** Victoria. (R) **4.30** World Cup Qualifier Live. Lithuania v England (Kick-off 5.00pm).  
**1.15** Regional Programme: Weather.  
**7.20** ITV News: Weather.  
**7.30** The X Factor: Six Chair Challenge. Dermot O'Leary hosts the first of three six chair challenge episodes, in which each judge must choose six acts to go forward to the next stage of the contest in the Judges' Houses. The judges must make the decision as soon as each act has performed - but are free to change their mind should someone better come along later in the show.  
**9.00** Victoria. After a series of assassination attempts, the queen is forced to seek sanctuary far from the palace. She and Albert travel to the Scottish Highlands, an area that has always fascinated her, but proves to be far from the romantic retreat she had fantasised about. However, travelling incognito gives both the royal couple and their servants a freedom they do not often experience. Denis Lawson guest stars.  
**10.00** ITV News: Weather.  
**10.15** Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston and Allegra Stratton, featuring reports on the latest issues and interviews with topical guests. (R)  
**11.15** World Cup Qualifier Highlights. Jacqui Oatley presents action from the latest fixtures, including Lithuania v England and Slovenia v Scotland in Group F, and Norway v Northern Ireland in Group C.  
**12.15** Liar. (R) **1.10** Jackpot247.

CHANNEL 4

**6.20** Kevin Can Wait. **6.45** Kevin Can Wait. **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.35** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Highlights. **5.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R)  
**6.30** Channel 4 News.  
**7.00** Escape to the Chateau. Dick and Angel look ahead to wedding season, with eight couples booking the chateau for their big day. Dick also converts a stone barn into a flat for Angel's parents, getting rid of 150 years' worth of rubbish in the process, but tensions rise between the couple when he gets carried away with the trees at the front of the property. Last in the series.  
**8.00** Escape. A group of five engineers is challenged to escape from a simulated landscape that has caused several vehicles to fall into a deep canyon. Presented by Ant Middleton.  
**9.00** Electric Dreams: Crazy Diamond. A married man's life is turned upside down by an encounter with a mysterious woman that leaves him smitten. He discovers is actually a dangerous synthetic being and has an illegal plan that will transform his life if he helps. All his wife's worst fears are confirmed as she leads him into a series of disasters that threatens to destroy everything they hold dear. Steve Buscemi, Julia David, Sidse Babbett Knudsen and Joanna Scanlan star in the fourth of the series of sci-fi tales, based on Philip K. Dick's short story Sales Pitch.  
**10.05** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words-and-numbers quiz, with captain Jon Richardson and Jason Manford take on guest captain Alan Carr and Katherine Ryan. (R)  
**11.05** Film: The Secret Life of Walter Mitty. (2013) An ordinary man who drifts through life by disappearing into daydreams is forced to embark on an adventure in real life. Comedy drama, with Ben Stiller and Kristen Wiig.  
**1.10** WWII's Great Escapes: The Freedom Trails. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Little Princess. (R) **6.25** Mr Men. (R) **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Wissper. (R) **7.00** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.10** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.45** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.30** Floogals. (R) **8.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.25** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.00** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **10.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Film: Innerspace. (1987) Sci-fi comedy, starring Dennis Quaid. **2.50** Film: Mannequin. (1987) **3.50** News Update. **3.55** Film: Mannequin. (1987) **4.35** Film: Annie. (1982) **5.35** 5 News Update. **5.40** Film: Annie. (1982) John Huston's musical, with Aileen Quinn and Albert Finney.  
**7.05** Deep-Sea Super Predator. Documentary following the search for a mysterious creature that is large enough to hunt down and devour a three-metre great white shark. (R)  
**8.00** Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman introduce action from the sixth round of matches, including Harlequins v Sale Sharks, Exeter Chiefs v Newcastle Falcons, and Saracens v Wasps.  
**8.55** 5 News Weekend.  
**9.00** Film: Wild Card. (2015) Premiere. A Las Vegas bodyguard with a gambling problem finds himself on the wrong side of a mob boss. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham and Michael Angarano.  
**10.00** 5 News Update.  
**10.05** Film: Wild Card. (2015) Premiere. A Las Vegas bodyguard with a gambling problem finds himself on the wrong side of a mob boss. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham and Michael Angarano.  
**11.05** Film: Safe. (2012) A former cage fighter protects a 12-year-old girl holding valuable information that several criminal factions want. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham and Catherine Chan.  
**12.50** Car Crash TV. **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Film: A Lonely Place to Die. (2011) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.40** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **5.50** Access. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Addicted to Sheep **9.00** Horizon **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** The Search for a New Earth **12.00** Dancing Cheek to Cheek: An Intimate History of Dance **1.00** Addicted to Sheep **2.00** Horizon **3.00** Close  
**ITV2**  
**11.10** 2Awesome: Ready, Set, Style **11.20** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **11.50** The X Factor: Bootcamp **1.20** Take Me Out **2.35** You've Been Framed: Gold Top 100 Animals **3.35** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **4.35** FYI Daily **4.40** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **5.15** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **6.15** FYI Daily **6.20** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **7.20** Film: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **8.20** FYI Daily **8.25** Film: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.25** Through the Keyhole **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**1.00** Film: Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.10** Film: Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) **2.55** Film: Columbo: By Dawn's Early Light (1974) **5.00** Lewis **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Honest **11.05** Film: Changeling (2008) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** Film: Changeling (2008) **1.50** The Knock **2.45** Mr Selfridge **3.35** Lewis  
**ITV4**  
**1.40** Film: Jeremiah Johnson (1972) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50** Film: Jeremiah Johnson (1972) **3.55** Film: The Way West (1967) **4.55** FYI Daily **5.00** Film: The Way West (1967) **6.20** River Monsters **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.00** Film: The Devil's Advocate (1997) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: The Devil's Advocate (1997) **11.55** Car Crash Global **12.55** The Sweeney  
**E4**  
**11.00** Don't Tell the Bride **12.00** My Hotter Half **1.00** The Big Bang Theory: Biggest Bangs **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Ice Age 3: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **9.55** Film: Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997)  
**Film4**  
**11.00** The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) **1.00** Hercules (1983) **3.05** Stuart Little 2 (2002) **4.40** Dr Dollie 2 (2001) **6.20** Robin Hood (2010) **9.00** Gladiator (2000) **12.00** Knight and Day (2010) **2.10** The Selfish Giant (2013) **4.00** Close

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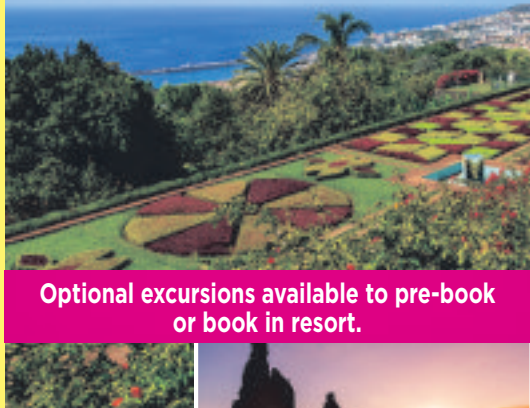
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The advertised price is correct as of 25 September 2017 and is based upon departure from Birmingham airport on 15 April 2018.





FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**Blade: Trinity, Channel 5, 11.05pm**  
 The fearless warrior's blood-sucking foes frame him for murder, forcing him to go on the run from the FBI while his enemies resurrect the first and most powerful of their kind – Dracula himself. Joining forces with a team of human vampire slayers, Blade embarks on a quest to wipe out the undead menace once and for all. Fantasy action thriller sequel, with Wesley Snipes and Jessica Biel. (2004)

**TUESDAY**  
**Fatal Honeymoon, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
 A woman goes on honeymoon to Australia, only to drown during a scuba-diving trip to the Great Barrier Reef. Her father is not convinced this was an accident, and begins to suspect her husband may have murdered her. A year later, he finally finds the evidence to prove his accusation. Fact-based crime drama, starring Harvey Keitel and Billy Miller. (2012)



Wild Card, Thursday, Channel 5, 11.05pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**A Mother's Fear, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
 A single mother resolves to discover the cause of her son's mysterious illness. Her investigation leads her to a corporation involved in genetically modified food and two scientists who are on the verge of a groundbreaking new discovery. Drama, starring Zoe Lister-Jones, Danny Glover and Victor Garber. (2015)

**THURSDAY**  
**Wild Card, Channel 5, 11.05pm**  
 Las Vegas bodyguard Nick Wild finds himself dealing with more than just his gambling problem after he takes revenge on the criminal who attacked his friend, little realising that the thug in question is the son of a mob boss. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham, Michael Angarano and Milo Ventimiglia. (2015)

**FRIDAY**  
**As Above, So Below, Channel 4, 12.10am**  
 An expedition ventures into a network of underground tunnels beneath Paris. As they explore the catacombs, the archaeologists experience a series of strange events and come under attack from a mysterious unknown force that seems to know their darkest secrets. Horror, starring Perdita Weeks. (2014)

# Returning drama series takes a shocking new turn

Life is never dull for Georgie Lane – and you get the impression she wants to keep it that way.

The last time we saw her, the experienced Army medic was coming to terms with being kidnapped in Kenya, but clearly the trauma involved with that situation hasn't put her off serving on the front line, because she's back in action when the new, third series begins.

This time, it's a longer run of 12 episodes featuring three stories.

"With an expanded 12-part series commission, this time Our Girl will follow our characters on three distinct missions in far-flung, dangerous parts of the globe - and we cannot wait to bring their new adventures back to BBC One," claims executive producer Caroline Skinner.

"I'm so happy that we'll be back for another series as I think there's definitely more stories to tell with Georgie," stated Michelle Keegan, who plays her, after the transmission

of the second run. "The reaction to the show has been overwhelming and I'm really thankful to everyone who's watched and supported it. It was an amazing experience filming with such an incredible group of people and I can't wait to do it all over again."

It's certainly taken her a long way from Coronation Street, where she initially made her name.

She isn't, of course, the only soap star to have featured in the acclaimed drama.

When it first began, Lacey Turner took the lead role of Molly Dawes while on hiatus from EastEnders, a teenager who decided that the military offered her a new lease of life away from the dreariness and lack of hope she felt at home. She had to turn down further adventures when she returned to Albert Square to play Stacey.

Our Girl's creator, Tony Grounds, also had a stint as an EastEnders writer, so knows how serial drama works, which is perhaps why this project appeals so much to a wide

audience; he has the inside track in making characters compelling, inspiring viewers to keep coming back for more.

This time around, the action begins in Nepal, as Grounds reveals: "On a disaster relief mission to Nepal after an earthquake hits the country, 2 Section is thrown into a perilous and life-changing situation. Michelle Keegan, brilliantly reprising her role as Corporal Georgie Lane, shows remarkable courage in the face of adversity and inspires the troops to perform their duty with bravery and compassion."

As well as carrying out her regular duties as a medic, Georgie is also entrusted with mentoring reckless new recruit Maisie, whose behaviour could put others in danger.

However, Georgie is soon distracted by handsome Nepalese engineer Milan, who is also helping the relief effort. They quickly form a close bond while working together to rebuild the area, but their lives are soon at risk when an aftershock rocks the village they were visiting.



Our Girl – Nepal Tour, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

## BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star Channel 4, 5.30pm**  
 New series. Former Gogglebox stars and B&B owners Steph and Dom Parker help people whose hotels and guest-houses are struggling, as well as those just starting out in business, aiming to take each establishment from the lowest rating to a luxury one in just five days. On arrival at the Ransdale Hotel in Bridlington, East Yorkshire, the couple challenge the owners to expand their breakfast menu, create a seaside-themed bedroom and throw a beach party for the general public. But how will today's guests rate their efforts?

**TUESDAY**  
**The Great British Bake Off Channel 4, 8pm**  
 The amateur cooks take part in Italian week, which culminates in a fiddly showstopper in the hottest temperatures ever recorded in the tent. Before that, under the ever watchful gaze of judges Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith, the contestants dish up a Sicilian signature that gets them all hot under the collar and a deceptively tricky technical. Noel Fielding and Sandi Toksvig are on hand to keep the bakers in line as the pressure of reaching the final stages of the competition intensifies.

**Russia 1917: Countdown to Revolution BBC2, 9pm**  
 A look at Russia's transition from tsarist autocracy to communist state, focusing on the involvement of three men – Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin, all of whom emerged from obscurity to forge an entirely new political system in the space of a few months. This drama-documentary examines the 245 days that brought these men to supreme power. As the history unfolds writers and historians, including Martin Amis, Orlando Figes, Helen Rappaport, Simon Sebag Montefiore and China Mieville, battle over the meaning of the Russian Revolution and explore how it shaped the world of today. Narrated by Juliet Stevenson.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Eat Well for Less? BBC1, 8pm**  
 After a break, Gregg Wallace and Chris Bavin return to show more families that they can eat better and cut their bills at the same time – and they're starting with the biggest clan to date. Single mum Angela has five daughters, aged between eight and 18, and as if feeding them all wasn't tough

enough, one of her girls has Coeliac disease and another has Coeliac and Type 1 diabetes. Angela's lack of confidence in the kitchen has left her reliant on convenience foods, but with her girls all wanting different things, it's not proving to be very convenient. Gregg and Chris's first step is to get her to stop shopping daily for that night's dinner and instead start planning gluten-free meals the whole family can enjoy together.



The Last Leg, Friday, Channel 4, 10pm

**THURSDAY**  
**An Hour to Catch a Killer with Trevor McDonald ITV, 9pm**

It's known as 'the golden hour' – the first 60 minutes of a murder investigation, where every decision is crucial and can make the difference between whether a killer is caught and convicted or walks free. To provide an insight into why that time window matters so much, Trevor McDonald presents this documentary, which follows the Northumbria

homicide detectives as they investigate the death of a young woman. From the moment the body is discovered, the entire murder squad record the investigation on their HD body cameras, taking viewers inside the crime scene where an ordinary camera crew couldn't go for fear of contaminating evidence.

**FRIDAY**  
**A Celebrity Taste of Italy Channel 5, 9pm**  
 Judith Chalmers, Ian Lavender, Rula Lenska, Johnny Ball and Diana Moran sample some Italian-style rest and relaxation. Rula and Diana head off to the local sulphur springs to search for the secret of eternal youth in its volcanic mud. As they slather up, Johnny and Judith find a whole new use for olive oil – being massaged in it.

**The Last Leg Channel 4, 10pm**  
 Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker are joined by guests Armando Iannucci and Sue Perkins for a comic review of the significant moments of the past seven days. The group members offer their own unique insight into some of the most difficult and delicate issues in modern Britain, and answer that most important of questions: is it OK?

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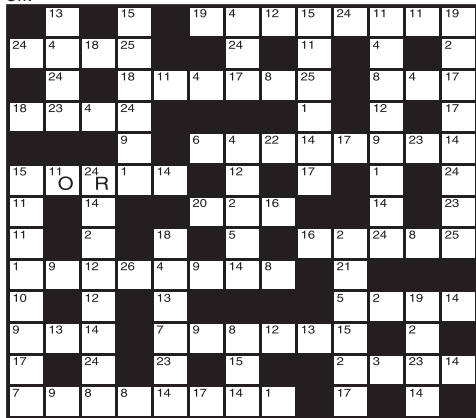


## BRAIN GYM

No.450

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	W	2	H	3	O	4	C	5	P	6	E	7	S	8	Q	9	J	10	K	11	Z	12	I	13	L
14	M	15	B	16	G	17	D	18	V	19	X	20	U	21	F	22	T	23	A	24	Y	25	N	26	R

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

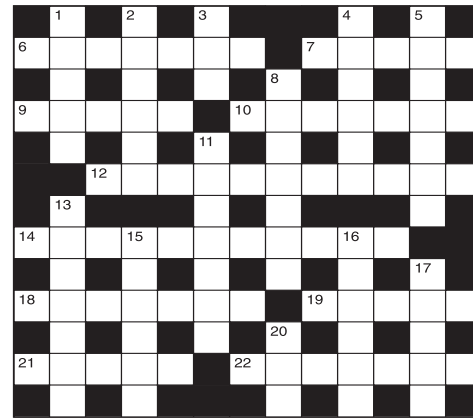
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

6. Unusually precise instructions to the cook (7)  
 7. Stage scenery for domestic units (5)  
 9. See 21 Across  
 10. Festival possessed Arthurian figure (7)  
 12. Sieges that may provide considerable interest (11)  
 14. Nippers living on their own? (6,5)  
 18. I could be in one rut, keeping to this (7)  
 19. Tree situated in fenced areas (5)  
 21 & 9Ac. Kind of agent protected by insurance! (5,5)  
 22. It will show the temperature of a planet (7)

## Down

1. Brush seen in Entebbe sometimes (5)  
 2. Kind of iron age bird! (6)  
 3. See 20 Down  
 4. Many quit, yet still stick together (6)  
 5. Artist's different version - of Dover? (7)  
 8. This provides electricity for the artillery unit (7)  
 11. Disturbing the game but coming out the winner (7)  
 13. Sapper obliged to show resilience (7)  
 15. Molecular structure to be of importance (6)  
 16. Opening the back of the gun, by the sound of it (6)  
 17. Youngster one found in grain store (5)  
 20 & 3Dn. Part of the map of the Middle East could be erased (3,3)



## Quick Clues:

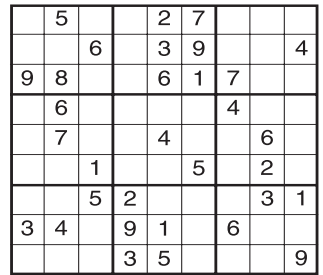
## Across

6. Scales (7)  
 7. Jovial (5)  
 9. Fortunate (5)  
 10. Pledge (7)  
 12. Wage earner (5-6)  
 14. Reach a climax (4,2,1,4)  
 18. Barbarous (7)  
 19. Composition (5)  
 21. Trivial (5)  
 22. Artful (7)

## Down

1. Ill-defined (5)  
 2. Pedestrian (6)  
 3. Work (3)  
 4. Universal (6)  
 5. Bunch (7)  
 8. Excrescences (7)  
 11. Tea urn (7)  
 13. Contrary (7)  
 15. Justice (6)  
 16. Away (6)  
 17. Boast (5)  
 20. Merriment (3)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every row and column contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

9	3	8	4	6	7	1	2	5
4	1	5	3	8	2	6	9	7
2	6	7	1	9	5	8	4	3
7	5	9	6	4	8	3	1	2
1	8	3	7	2	9	4	5	6
6	4	2	5	3	1	9	7	8
8	9	6	2	5	4	7	3	1
3	2	1	9	7	6	5	8	4
5	7	4	8	1	3	2	6	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
 CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Healed; 8 Breach; 10 Hydrant; 11 Check; 12 Arch; 13 Tense; 17 Brick; 18 Dene; 22 Arise; 23 Esparto; 24 Pilots; 25 Coarse. Down: 1 The head; 2 Haddock; 3 Nepal; 4 Process; 5 Layer; 6 Shake; 9 Stretcher; 14 Priests; 15 Bearers; 16 Recover; 19 Wasps; 20 Villa; 21 Spool. QUICK - Across: 7 Apathy; 8 Madder; 10 Sharpen; 11 Nerve; 12 Vile; 13 Greed; 17 Cross; 18 Mere; 22 Tacit; 23 Outcast; 24 Fettle; 25 Censor. Down: 1 Massive; 2 Manacle; 3 Shape; 4 Saunter; 5 Adore; 6 Under; 9 Intrusion; 14 Brittle; 15 Because; 16 Vesture; 19 Staff; 20 Acute; 21 Steep.

## Quiz

- Which great British actor's middle name was Kerr?
- What is the collective name for the first five books of the Old Testament?
- Which Greek actress died of lung cancer in March 1994?
- What is the name of Seurat's technique of painting with dots?
- Which pop group had a hit with Morningtown Ride?
- Which African leader was called 'The Lion of Judah'?
- Which composer was nicknamed 'the Waltz King'?
- With which US political party has Tammany Hall been associated?
- Which military vehicle was invented by Ernest Swinton?
- Which sleepy character was invented by Washington Irving in 1819?

## Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Female; 2 Philippines; 3 Eddie Grundy; 4 Home Guard; 5 OJ Simpson; 6 Electrocardiogram; 7 Lhasa; 8 Zinc; 9 Uruguay; 10 Electrical resistance.

## Niner: PERSONIFY

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

32156  
47453  
956128

gives a tree,  
gives a second tree,  
gives a fertile spot.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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# Wagamama's – food that woks

It was a busy day off work. While the rest of the city was facing the nine-to-five, we were racing around attending various appointments. Places to go, people to see, so we really needed a quick ladies-that-lunch kind of meal.

There were loads of options, with Italian, burgers and pub grub all on the menu. But we decided to go for something wholesome and a brand that was a firm favourite for both of us. Wagamama's has been going for 25 years and boasts more than 120 restaurants in the UK alone. We dropped in at the new outlet in New Street, Birmingham.

The concept is truly Japanese. The menu is varied with many little nibbly bits, ramen (broth) noodle dishes, teppanyaki (sizzling noodles), donburi (steamed rice) curries with drinks including fresh juices, Asian beers and traditional Japanese rice wine sake. While it has added to its menu over the years it has kept some of its original dishes.

## QUIET

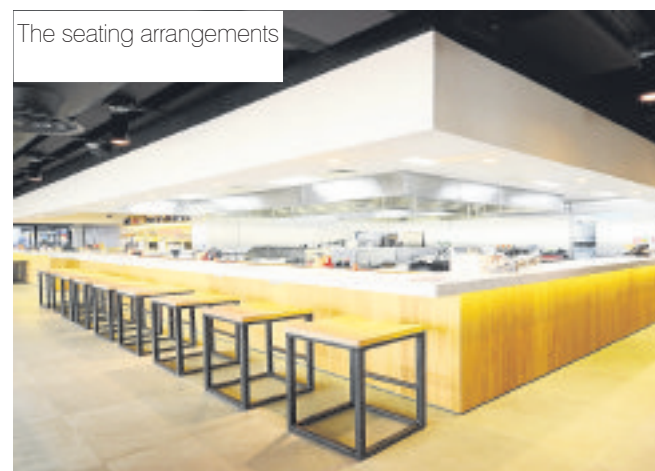
From the outside it seemed fairly quiet but everyone was seated at the back. There were tables outside and for a Tuesday lunchtime, it was just the right amount of busy. I already knew what I'd be having before I stepped inside but happily perused the menu just in case something different jumped out at me.

My friend opted for lots of smaller plates and a diet Coke whereas I went for edamame beans and a chicken katsu curry with a glass of Prosecco.

We both ordered the edamame beans which are popped into the mouth to enjoy the salty soya flavour. It always seems like a healthy option and gives a virtuous feeling especially as I was enjoying my glass of fizz.



Wagamama's, New Street



The seating arrangements

My curry was up next. A gorgeous mould of perfectly cooked rice, boiled and not at all sticky or stodgy with the Panko breaded sliced chicken smothered in the gorgeous katsu curry sauce. There was a lovely side salad with a fiery ginger garnish on the side which added some refreshment from the heat of the curry.

The sauce was thick and smooth and there was lots of it. My friend couldn't decide what to have so went for the chilli squid, ebi katus and a raw salad. She picked at her dishes as they each arrived, devouring bits from each with a contented look creeping into her smile. The

crispy fried squid was dusted with the spice shichimi. It also comes with a chilli and coriander dipping sauce. She loved the squid, said it was perfectly cooked.

The ebu katsu was crispy fried prawns in panko breadcrumbs, served with a spicy chilli and garlic sauce. The perfect soft fishy pieces were a delicious contrast to the crunchy coating of breadcrumbs and the chilli dip added some fire to the light prawn flavour.

The raw salad was a lovely healthy option with mixed leaves, edamame beans, baby plum tomatoes, seaweed and pickled mooli, carrot and red onion and all of it

topped with fried shallots and the wagamama house dressing. She ate the lot saying it was fresh and zingy and very well dressed.

There were desserts on offer but none really took our fancy. In any case we had dresses to try on so didn't want any extra unnecessary bulges!

A bill of £44.05 was reasonable for the amount of food we had ordered. It was a great experience and the staff were friendly and smiley throughout making the meal all the more enjoyable.

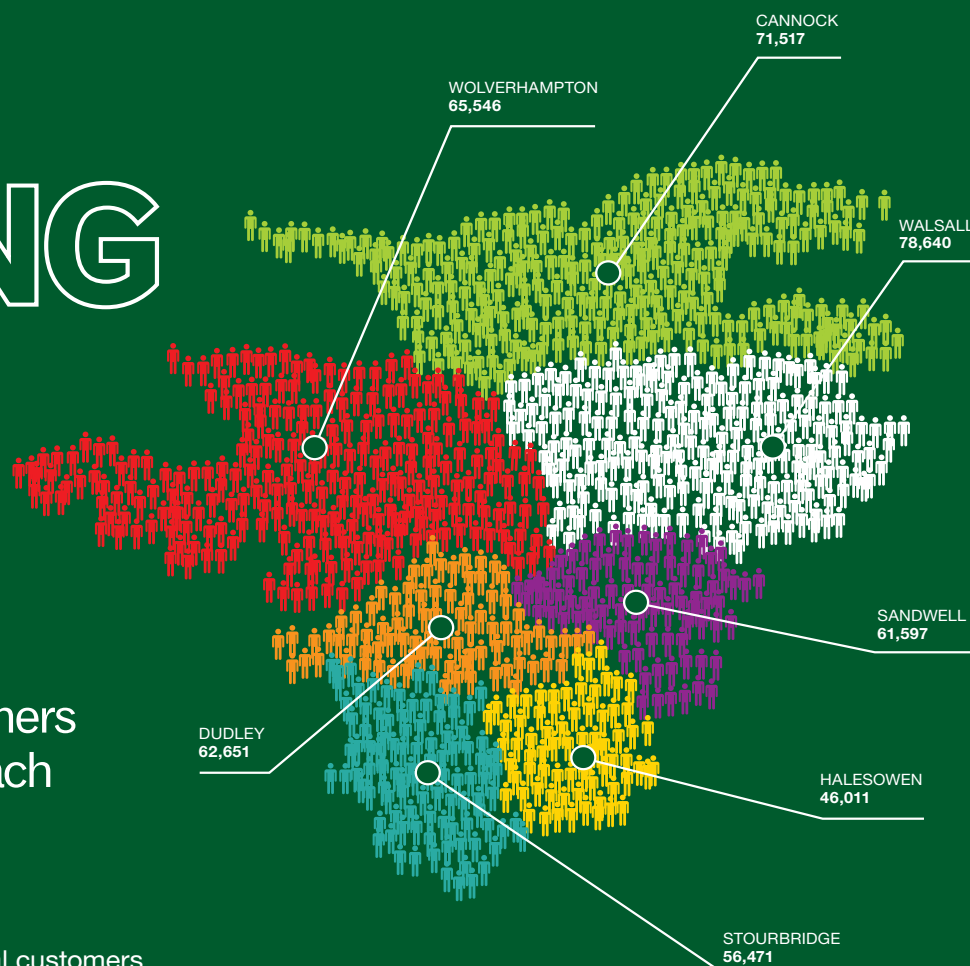
LISA WILLIAMS

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## Half of Britons expect crash in housing market

**Confidence in the future of the housing market is wavering with more than half of British believing that there will be a crash within the next five years, a new survey shows.**

Overall some 53 per cent think the market is heading for a bust while 28 per cent have faith in the housing market remaining stable, according to the poll from You Gov for property marketplace The House Shop.

In total, 66 per cent think there will be a crash within the next decade, but many thought that a potential crash was even more imminent with 24 per cent saying there will be a crash within two years and six per cent saying it could happen in the next 12 months.

Younger people are the most pessimistic with 74 per cent of those aged 18 to 34 believing there will be a housing crash within the next decade and 58 per cent saying it could happen within five years.

The youngest among this group, those aged 18 to 24 years old were most convinced of the likelihood of a crash, with just 14 per cent saying there would not be a crash in future, compared to 37 per cent in the over 55s age bracket.

In general, the results show that as age increases, the perceived likelihood of a crash decreases, with older generations more confident in the ability of the housing market to avoid another boom and bust cycle.

### Inevitable

"It was interesting to see such a high proportion of the younger generation believing that a crash within the next decade is inevitable.

"Young people have been the ones least benefitted by the strong growth in the housing market over the past few decades with many finding themselves priced out of home ownership altogether as they are forced into expensive rental properties with little potential to save for a deposit," said Nick Marr, co-founder of The House Shop.

"I imagine that many young people are in fact hoping for a crash, so that they can snap up cheap properties during the low point of the resulting crisis and then enjoy the same appreciation of value that saw their parents accrue substantial personal wealth from property ownership," he pointed out.

"While price growth is of course desirable in the housing market, we have now reached a point where a sizable number of properties in the UK are simply unaffordable for first-time buyers, even for those on relatively high incomes," he suggested.

"The public are clearly struggling to see how the market can continue on its current trajectory and still remain accessible to aspiring home owners.

"It seems highly likely that we are due for some form of market correction in the coming years to prevent prices spiralling further out of control whether that comes in the form of a steady and controlled adjustment or an all-out crash is yet to be seen," he concluded.

# First-time buyers 'unaware' of shared ownership schemes

**Home buyers, especially those looking to purchase their first property, appear to be unaware of shared ownership options with the number of sales in the sector falling across England and Wales.**

Only 11 per cent of aspiring first-time buyers say they would choose to purchase a shared ownership property, with nearly 80 per cent opting to purchase a home outright instead and 30 per cent of aspiring first-time buyers admitted to not fully understanding what shared ownership is.

The research from My Home Move also shows that despite numerous pledges from the Government to increase access to housing for Britain's aspiring home buyers shared ownership activity has decreased across seven out of nine regions including London, the Home Counties, North East, South East, Wales, West Midlands and Yorkshire.

The provider of mover conveyancing services says more needs to be done to increase the popularity of shared ownership among home buyers, as it currently accounts for less than one per cent of housing stock across England and Wales.

The research is published as the organisers of Shared Ownership Week, which runs from 21 to 27 September, also reveals its latest analysis showing that 54 per cent of 21 to 30 year olds have never heard of shared ownership.

The campaign aims to change this, and educate aspiring home buyers about how the scheme can help them on to or up the property ladder. It points out that shared ownership has been available since the 1980s, but has been restricted with local councils dictating who should be a priority based on a wide range of factors from salary to profession to where the buyer comes from.

Following a relaxation to the eligibility criteria last year, the scheme is open to



people of any occupation, and ensures second steppers, those who have owned before, are given equal priority with first-time buyers. Furthermore, there is no longer a cap on the number of bedrooms an applicant can request, providing they earn less than £80,000 a year, or £90,000 in London.

Organisers also point out that shared ownership enables buyers to purchase a share in a new home that they can afford, usually a minimum of 25 per cent of its market value, with as little as a five per cent deposit.

The buyers pay a subsidised rent on the remaining share of the property, usually resulting in lower monthly costs than renting on the open market, and can

buy further shares at any time, known as 'staircasing', right up to 100 per cent and outright ownership.

Doug Crawford, chief executive of My Home Move, pointed out that last February the Government pledged to fix Britain's broken housing market, and yet one of the schemes designed to encourage home ownership is falling in popularity.

"Our research highlights just how small transactional volumes for shared ownership are, raising questions as to whether the scheme needs to change its image to attract new home buyers. It's our belief that home buyers, despite the lack of housing stock, are turned off by phrases like affordable housing which is often used to describe shared ownership," he said.

"Yes, they want to be able to afford their home, but they want to buy a dream. The idea of buying a home that has been built to fulfil a quota, or is being sold through a housing association and so has the negative connotations of social housing attached to it, is just too much for some," he explained.

"Perhaps we need to rebrand the image of shared ownership, to bring it in line with initiatives like the Government's Help to Buy, to make it more attractive to first time buyers. Shared ownership can offer those trapped as generation renters a real possibility of getting onto the property ladder, but it's all a question of selling them the dream and maybe it's time to find out what would make aspiring first-time buyers change their mind," he added.

## Many brokers still unsure on portfolio landlord changes

**Just over half of buy to let brokers understand what the new portfolio landlord application rules are and how they will apply to their business when they are introduced in October, new research shows.**

But while the majority of brokers are fully up to speed, some 31 per cent are unsure what exactly it means for their business and 13 per cent don't know when the changes kick in, according to the research from Kent Reliance, part of the specialist lending group OneSavings Bank.

Many of those in the know foresee more administrative legwork and business uncertainty, but twice as many believe the new rules will create opportunities.

Overall 54 per cent of brokers are comfortable that they fully understand what the upcoming PRA changes for portfolio landlords entail but that means that 46 per cent still don't understand everything they need to know.

The changes, which were announced in September 2016, will see a new minimum underwriting standard introduced for landlords with four or more properties as of 01 October 2017. Under the new rules, portfolio landlords, and their brokers, will need to provide detailed information on the cash flows and costs arising from multiple tenancies.



However, with less than a month until the deadline, the survey also found that 13 per cent admitted that while they were aware of the changes, they do not know when they are coming into effect, while 31 per cent had heard of the new rules but didn't fully understand how to apply them to their business and just two per cent had not heard of them.

Those brokers that are already in the know are optimistic about the opportunities the new framework will create and 29 per cent believe the PRA rules will increase future opportunities compared to 14 per cent who think it will reduce overall buy to let transactions.

Whatever the eventual outcome, some teething pains are expected. Some 29 per cent anticipate that more applications will be rejected in the short term, 23 per cent believe the extra administrative burden will cause the application process to slow down, with just four per cent predicting that it will have no impact at all.

"Brokers have had to get to grips with a huge amount of regulatory change over the past 18 months including seismic changes to mortgage tax relief and stamp duty, so it's understandable that some are still playing catch up, but with the PRA deadline looming, now is the time to buff up on the new rules and make sure clients are ready to comply," said Adrian Moloney, sales director at OneSavings Bank.

"The new standards are business as usual for us as a specialist lender, but we know that brokers are going to have a lot more work on their plates, so we've done everything in our power to make life easier. Whether that's through communicating our new lending criteria well in advance of the changes, or developing a dedicated technology platform, brokers ease of doing business with us remain a key priority of ours," he explained.

"For those that still don't feel confident in what these changes mean for their business, the time to get on top of it is now," he added.





There are around 80 cars ready for viewing at any one time

# Expansion for family-run Oak Garage, Merry Hill

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14 Vauxhall Mokka Hatchback 1.6i SE Silver Only 6000 Miles	<b>£11,495</b>
14 Toyota Yaris 1.33 VVT-i Icon+ Red Only 6000 Miles	<b>£7,795</b>
64 Nissan Note 1.2 Acenta Premium Red Only 10000 Miles	<b>£7,995</b>
63 Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 CDTi Design Nav [110] Grey Only 10000 Miles	<b>£9,495</b>
11 Renault Grand Modus 1.6 Dynamique Auto Red 11000 Miles	<b>£4,995</b>
14 Kia Venga Hatchback 1.6 2 Auto Silver Only 11000 Miles	<b>£8,995</b>
62 Skoda Fabia 1.2 TSI Elegance Maroon 11000 Miles	<b>£7,495</b>
Citroen	
14 Citroen Berlingo Multispace 1.6 HDi 90 Plus Blue 14k	<b>£9,295</b>
13 Citroen C1 Hatchback 1.0i VTR 5dr Black 32k	<b>£4,495</b>
14 Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 VTi 16V Exclusive EGS6 Grey 29k	<b>£7,995</b>
14 Citroen C3 Picasso Diesel 1.6 HDi 8V Exclusive Blue 17k	<b>£7,995</b>
14 Citroen C3 Picasso Diesel 1.6 HDi 8V Exclusive Blue 20k	<b>£7,995</b>
64 Citroen C3 Picasso Diesel 1.6 HDi 8V VTR+ Silver 24k	<b>£6,995</b>
11 Citroen C4 Grand Picasso Diesel 1.6 HDi VTR+ Blue 84k	<b>£5,495</b>
14 Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Air Exclusive Silver 23k	<b>£10,495</b>
14 Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Airdream Exclusive Red 26k	<b>£9,995</b>
64 Citroen C4 Picasso Diesel 1.6 HDi VTR+ Blue 17k	<b>£9,995</b>
06 Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Exclusive 4dr Auto White 79k	<b>£9,995</b>
58 Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Lignage 4dr Auto White 64k	<b>£8,995</b>
57 Citroen C6 Diesel Saloon 2.7 HDi V6 Exclusive 4dr Auto Grey 73k	<b>£7,995</b>
59 Citroen C6 Diesel Saloon 2.7 HDi V6 Exclusive 4dr Auto Silver	<b>£6,995</b>
14 Citroen Grand C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Air Exclusive Red 19k	<b>£11,995</b>
Ford	
14 Ford B-max Hatchback 1.6 Zetec Powershift Red 15k	<b>£8,495</b>
14 Ford C-max Diesel Estate 1.6 TDCi Titanium Blue 20k	<b>£9,995</b>
11 Ford C-max Estate 1.6 Titanium Blue 64k	<b>£6,795</b>
58 Ford Fiesta Hatchback 1.25 Zetec 3dr [82] Red 23k	<b>£4,995</b>
13 Ford Fiesta Hatchback 1.6 Zetec Powershift Yellow 32k	<b>£7,495</b>
09 Ford Focus Hatchback 1.6 Zetec Black 73k	<b>£3,995</b>
14 Ford Grand C-max Diesel 1.6 TDCi Zetec White 21k	<b>£9,995</b>
14 Ford Grand C-max Diesel Estate 1.6 TDCi Zetec Blue 30k	<b>£9,495</b>
Nissan	
14 Nissan Juke Diesel 1.5 dCi Acenta Premium Grey 21k	<b>£9,995</b>
14 Nissan Note Hatchback 1.2 DiG-S Tekna Auto Grey 17k	<b>£8,995</b>
10 Nissan Note Hatchback 1.6 Tekna Auto Beige 79k	<b>£4,795</b>
11 Nissan Note Hatchback 1.6 Tekna Auto Silver 23k	<b>£6,395</b>
60 Nissan Qashqai Diesel 1.5 dCi [110] Tekna Beige 48k	<b>£8,795</b>
61 Nissan QASHQAI+2 Diesel 1.5 dCi [110] Tekna White 57k	<b>£9,995</b>
Peugeot	
63 Peugeot 2008 1.6 e-HDi Active EGC Brown 21k	<b>£8,295</b>
14 Peugeot 3008 Diesel Estate 1.6 HDi Active 5dr, Silver	<b>£9,795</b>
15 Peugeot 308 Diesel Hatchback 1.6 HDi 92 Active Red 14k	<b>£9,295</b>
14 Peugeot 5008 Diesel 2.0 HDi 163 Allure Auto White 50k	<b>£10,995</b>

### Vauxhall

13 Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi 16V ecoFLEX Elite [165] Blue 32k	<b>£7,495</b>
14 Vauxhall Astra Sports Tourer 2.0 CDTi SRi Auto Blue 22k	<b>£8,295</b>
58 Vauxhall Combo 1.3 CDTi Auto With Access Ramp Silver 81k	<b>£2,495</b>
62 Vauxhall Insignia Diesel 2.0 CDTi SRi [160] Silver 69k	<b>£6,495</b>
64 Vauxhall Insignia Sports Tourer 2.0 CDTi Design Blue 29k	<b>£10,495</b>
62 Vauxhall Meriva Estate 1.4i 16V SE Grey 23k	<b>£5,995</b>
64 Vauxhall Mokka Hatchback 1.4T Tech Line Auto Red 43k	<b>£10,995</b>
14 Vauxhall Zafira Diesel Tourer 2.0 CDTi SRi White 30k	<b>£9,995</b>
14 Vauxhall Zafira Tourer 1.4T Exclusiv Grey 14k	<b>£9,995</b>

### Others

14 BMW X1 Diesel Estate xDrive 18d xLine Black 30k	<b>£14,495</b>
14 Kia Sportage Diesel Estate 1.7 CRDi ISG 1 Black 33k	<b>£11,795</b>
14 Kia Sportage Diesel Estate 1.7 CRDi ISG 1 White 20k	<b>£12,495</b>
08 Mazda MAZDA 6 Estate 2.0 TS2 Black 85k	<b>£3,995</b>
07 Mini Convertible 1.6 Cooper 2dr Red 53k	<b>£4,995</b>
65 Mini Hatchback 1.5 Cooper Black 16k	<b>£12,995</b>
65 Renault Grand Scenic 1.5 dCi Dynamique Nav Black 20k	<b>£11,495</b>
14 Skoda Octavia Diesel 1.6 TDI CR Elegance Brown 42k	<b>£10,995</b>
14 Skoda Yeti Estate 1.2 TSI S Grey 45k	<b>£8,995</b>
14 Toyota Yaris 1.33 VVT-i Icon+ Multidrive S Turquoise 26k	<b>£7,995</b>
08 Toyota Yaris Special Eds 1.3 VVT-i TR 3dr Red 42k	<b>£3,495</b>
14 Volvo V40 D2 Cross Country Lux Powershift Black 37k	<b>£10,495</b>

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### HP Example

Monthly payments	£232.35
Duration of agreement	48 Months
On the road price	£9,495.00
Customer deposit	£400.00
Total amount of credit	£9,095.00
Total amount payable	£11,702.80
Representative APR	11.5%
Total interest payable	£2,207.80
Fixed rate of interest pa	5%
Admin fee	£199.00
Option to purchase fee	£150.00

### PCP Finance Example

Monthly payments	£172.80
Duration of agreement	48 Months
On the road price	£9,495.00
Customer deposit	£400.00
Total amount of credit	£9,095.00
Total amount payable	£12,286.90
APR	11.1%
Total interest payable	£2,791.90
Fixed rate of interest pa	5%
Optional final payment	£3,765.30
Admin fee	£199.00
Option to purchase fee	£150

### Commercial feature

Expansion is always a reassuring sign that a business must be doing well. Customer demand is based on happy customers. That's exactly what you'll find at Oak Garage in Sterling Park, Merry Hill. You may have heard their ads on Black Country Radio, but if you make a visit down to their growing base in Sterling Park, you'll be able to see for yourself what's behind this growth.

It was back in 2006 that two family run businesses, Oak Garage and Imperial Cars merged together. Combining many years' experience that dated back to 1971, they are now one of the longest running family run used car sales businesses in the Midlands.

This expansion for Oak Garage means they have doubled in size, taking up two more units at the Sterling Park site, now having four of the eight units there.

It means they have around 80 cars ready for viewing at any one time, with half of their vehicles undercover and protected while prospective customers come along to see them.



Oak Garage has doubled in size

### Quality Cars with the RAC Backing

The team at Oak Garage like to keep the personal touch when it comes to motor sales. For a long time now, they have specialised in one owner only cars, with a full-service history so that customers can buy with confidence. But now, you can add to that, the peace of mind that they are a RAC Approved Dealership.

All RAC Approved Dealerships sign up to giving their vehicles the 82-point RAC Approved Preparation Standard before delivery; along with a minimum of three months' RAC Warranty cover, twelve months complimentary RAC Roadside breakdown cover and enrolment to RAC Accident Management Service – that supports a motorist in the event of an accident.

The range of services they offer include setting-up finance for you. They have a choice of finance companies to approach, so you can select the deal that's just right for you. They also offer part exchange and can source cars for you too.

Expansion for Oak Garage comes because of their quality, integrity and desire to deliver customer service that goes above and beyond what's expected of others. So many happy customers can't be wrong – and the RAC agree.

● Address: Oak Garage, Sterling Park, Pedmore Road, Merry Hill, DY5 1TB.  
Telephone: 01384 906030.  
Website: www.oakgarage.co.uk



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16/66	ADAM SLAM 1.4 3DR LET IT BLUE 12,000 MILES	£9,995	£9,495	15/65	INSIGNIA SRI NAV 2.0CDTI 140ps 5DR CARBON FLASH 19,000 MILES	£11,695
CORSA & VIVA				15/65	INSIGNIA SRI NAV 1.6 CDTI 5DR SUMMIT WHITE 14,300 MILES	£11,895
17/17	VIVA SL 1.0 EASYTRONIC AUTO SOVEREIGN SILVER 300 MILES		£9,995	13/13	CASCADA ELITE 2.0CDTI ASTEROID GREY 43,000 MILES LEATHER TRIM	£10,995
11/61	CORSA SRI 1.4 5DR ASTEROID GREY 33,000 MILES		£6,495	14/14	CASCADA SE 2.0CDTI DEEP SKY BLUE 10,000 MILES ONLY	£11,895
15/15	CORSA EXCITE 1.2 3DR FLAME RED 32,500 MILES		£6,995	MOKKA & MOKKA X		
15/15	CORSA LIMITED 1.4 TURBO 3DR FLAME RED 12,000 MILES	£8,995	£8,695	14/14	MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.7CDTI 5DR BORACAY BLUE 24,000 MILES	£10,995
16/16	CORSA ENERGY 1.4 5DR FLAME RED 7,000 MILES "OUR OWN CAR"		£8,995	14/64	MOKKA SE 1.6 5DR DEEP ESPRESSO 33,600 MILES LEATHER TRIM	£9,995
16/16	CORSA LIMITED 1.4 3DR CARBON FLASH 7,600 MILES	£9,495	£9,195	14/64	MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.6 5DR VELVET RED 27,000 MILES	£10,495
17/17	CORSA STING 1.4 3DR FLAME RED DELIVERY MILES LAST FEW REMAINING		£7,995	14/64	MOKKA TECHLINE 1.7CDTI 4X4 SOVEREIGN SILVER 44,700 MILES SAT NAV	£11,995
ASTRA				14/64	MOKKA SE 1.4T VELVET RED 16,000 MILES SAT NAV & LEATHER TRIM	£12,495
11/11	ASTRA SRI 1.7CDTI 125ps 5DR TECHNICAL GREY 37,500 MILES 1 OWNER		£6,495	15/65	MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.6CDTI 5DR CARBON FLASH 11,500 MILES	£12,995
12/12	ASTRA ACTIVE 1.4 5DR ASTEROID GREY 31,500 MILES		£6,495	17/66	MOKKA X DESIGN NAV 1.4T SUMMIT WHITE 9,900 MILES	£15,495
13/63	ASTRA SRI 1.6 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 26,500 MILES		£7,995	17/66	MOKKA X ELITE 1.4T AUTOMATIC 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 7,600 MILES LEATHER TRIM	£16,995
14/63	ASTRA TECHLINE 2.0CDTI 5DR DEEP SKY BLUE 31,500 MILES SAT NAV	£8,495	£7,695	17/17	MOKKA X ELITE NAV 1.4T 5DR BORACAY BLUE 8,000 MILES LEATHER TRIM	£17,295
14/64	ASTRA EXCITE 1.4 5DR SILVER LAKE 14,000 MILES		£8,495	OTHER MAKES & SPECIALIST		
15/15	ASTRA EXCITE 1.4 5DR POWER RED 13,500 MILES		£8,795	12/12	VAUXHALL AMPERA ELECTRON 1.4 "ELECTRIC CAR" CARBON FLASH 51,500 MILES LEATHER & SAT NAV	£12,495
MERIVA & ZAFIRA				14/14	MERCEDES BENZ A CLASS A180 1.6 SPORT AUTO SILVER 11,800 MILES	£16,495
14/14	MERIVA SE 1.4T 5DR ASTEROID GREY 41,500 MILES	£7,695	£7,295	15/15	MERCEDES BENZ A CLASS A180 SE 1.6 AUTO 5DR MET GREY 22,000 MILES	£16,395
14/64	MERIVA TECHLINE 1.4 5DR ASTEROID GREY 16,000 MILES	£8,495	£7,995	16/16	BMW 330D X DRIVE 4DR AUTO METALLIC GREY 19,500 MILES *ARRIVING SOON*	£23,995
15/65	MERIVA TECHLINE NAV 1.4 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 8,500 MILES	£8,995	£8,795			
17/67	MERIVA LIFE 1.4 5DR CHOICE OF COLOURS DELIVERY MILEAGE FROM		£11,995			
14/64	ZAFIRA TOURER EXCLUSIV 2.0CDTI 5DR DEEP SKY BLUE 22,500 MILES	£10,495	£10,195			
15/65	ZAFIRA TOURER SRI 1.6CDTI 5DR SHINY ROCK 9,800 MILES "LOTS OF EXTRAS"		£14,995			

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09/09	CITROEN C1 1.0 VTR 5-dr, Grey, 41,000 miles	£3,995	14/14	KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRDI ISG 5-dr, Blue, 40,000 miles	£12,450
13/63	CITROEN C1 1.0 VTR+ 3-dr, Blue, 30,000 miles	£4,495	16/16	JEEP RENEGADE 1.6 MULTIJET SPORT 5-dr, Black, 11,000 miles	£12,795
12/12	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 S 5-dr, Grey, 19,000 miles	£4,995	16/65	MAZDA 6 2.2D SE-L NAV 4-dr, White, 35,000 miles	£12,895
12/12	NISSAN MICRA 1.2 ACENTA 5-dr, Silver, 30,000 miles	£4,995	16/65	MAZDA 6 2.2D SE-L NAV 4-dr, Automatic, Grey, 36,000 miles	£12,895
12/62	NISSAN MICRA 1.2 ACENTA 5-dr, White, 33,000 miles	£5,495	15/65	MAZDA 6 2.2D SE-L NAV ESTATE Silver, 36,000 miles	£13,495
12/62	FIAT PANDA 1.0 TWINAIR LOUNGE 5-dr, Blue, 30,000 miles	£5,695	14/14	MERCEDES A-CLASS A180 1.6 5-dr, Automatic, Silver, 11,000 miles	£15,995
11/61	CITROEN DS3 1.6 VTi DSTYLE+ 3-dr, Blue/Black, 40,000 miles	£5,750			USED CARS JUST ARRIVED
15/64	VOLKSWAGEN 1.0 TAKE UP 5-dr, Black, 10,000 miles	£5,995	09/09	PEUGEOT 107 1.0 URBAN 3-dr, Silver, 49,000 miles	£2,995
11/11	TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 VVTi SPIRIT 5-dr, Grey, 38,000 miles	£5,995	09/09	CITROEN C1 VTR 1.0 5-dr, Grey, 41,000 miles	£3,995
12/12	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 ACTIVE 5-dr, Grey, 31,000 miles	£6,495	11/11	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 EXCITE 5-dr, Blue, 30,000 miles	£4,995
11/61	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SRI 5-dr, Grey, 32,000 miles	£6,495	13/13	FORD KA 1.3 ZETEC 3-dr, Red, 46,000 miles	£5,495
14/14	NISSAN MICRA 1.2 ACENTA 5-dr, White, 22,000 miles	£6,495	10/60	VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2 SE 5-dr, Black, 32,000 miles	£6,995
12/12	HONDA CIVIC 1.8 VTEC SE 5-dr, Grey, 57,000 miles	£6,995	13/62	CITROEN DS3 1.6 DSTYLE+ 3-dr, Blue/Black, 33,000 miles	£7,295
13/13	FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5-dr, Silver, 48,000 miles	£7,195	14/64	CITROEN DS3 DSTYLE 1.6 HDI 3-dr, Purple, 19,000 miles	£8,995
13/63	MINI ONE 1.6 3-dr, Brown, 57,000 miles	£7,695	14/64	NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI ACENTA 5-dr, Grey, 30,000 miles	£9,995
12/62	HYUNDAI VELOSTER 1.6 GDI 4-dr, Black, 33,000 miles	£7,995			COMMERCIAL VEHICLES
09/09	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 2.0 TDI 140 GT 5-dr, blue, 33,000 miles	£7,995	17/17	VAUXHALL VIVARO 1.6 CDTI 2700 SWB VAN Silver, Delivery Mileage..	£14,295 +VAT
14/14	MITSUBISHI ASX 1.6 5-dr, Silver, 37,000 miles	£8,350			MOTORHOMES
14/14	SEAT LEON 1.6 TDI SE 5-dr, Black, 47,000 miles	£8,495	09/59	MOOVEO P719 4-Berth, Island Fixed Bed, 32,452 miles	£24,995
15/64	FIAT PANDA 1.3 4X4 5-dr, White, 19,000 miles	£8,995	08/58	AUTOCUISE STARSPIRIT 2-Berth, U-Shaped Lounge, 25,329 miles	£29,495
13/13	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI 360 5-dr, White, 60,000 miles	£9,995	10/60	SWIFT BOLERO 630 EW 2-Berth, Luxury Finish, 14,350 miles	£32,995
12/62	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.4 TSI 2-dr, Convertible, White, 50,000 miles	£10,495			MORE IN STOCK & ARRIVING SOON
16/65	MAZDA 3 2.2 SE-L NAV 5-dr, White, 37,000 miles	£10,995			Please contact Craig or Howard
14/14	MINI COUNTRYMAN 2.0D COOPER S ALL4 White, 43,000 miles	£10,995			

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## Proof of the 'hybrid' pudding was discovered in Charles Clark event!



Toyota's hybrid range tested in challenge

Charles Clark Toyota are so confident that the Toyota hybrid models range offer a better way to drive than their competitors with conventional engines that they held a Hybrid Challenge event at Wolverhampton Wanderers FC Stadium.

Customers were invited to be the judge and test drive from the selected Toyota Hybrid models ranging from the: C-HR, RAV4, Yaris, Prius or a Prius plug-in and in turn driving the competition's comparative model to evaluate the smooth drive, fuel economy and running costs for each.

Each driver had an hour's slot where they drove the vehicles on a varied route of urban and motorway driving, putting each car through its paces in the different driving



Tester David Brown and salesman Michael Mahrra

arenas. You could say it's was not much of a challenge especially with the Toyota's unique hybrid system and its ability to recycle energy that other car models normally waste, you can benefit from fuel economy of up to 94mpg.

Toyota's Hybrid also benefit from up to 30 per cent less servicing costs and up to 40 per cent better fuel economy than the competitors models, better still that's up to 40 per cent better fuel efficiency than an equivalent diesel engine.

So you won't just enjoy the drive. You'll enjoy the savings, too. That's better. And that's not all. You'll save on maintenance, too. About 30 per cent less maintenance costs when compared to a non-hybrid. That's because hybrid vehicles have less wear and tear on items like brake discs and tyres, and you don't have a clutch.

Toyota are in fact the world leaders in hybrid technology and there are more than nine million hybrid drivers worldwide.

The latest Toyota Hybrid launched in January 2017 the C-HR Hybrid Dynamic car has an average fuel consumption of 72.4 - 74.3 mpg and CO2 emissions of 86-87g/km.

A majority of the test drivers said that the Toyota Hybrids were their choice for driveability and eco friendliness.

\*All mpg and CO2 figures quoted are sourced from official EU regulated laboratory test results. These are provided to allow comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect the attendees actual driving experience.

# Morgan: Britain's oldest family-owned car maker

Nestled within the Malvern hills lies Morgan – one of the oldest-surviving car manufacturers in the UK. Established in 1909 by H F S Morgan with the creation of the original three-wheeler, it only moved to four wheels in 1936 – and things have stayed pretty much the same ever since. It's now the last family-owned British motor manufacturer – and family values are still visible throughout the build process.

With coach building at its heart, Morgan is a company that keeps traditional values at the forefront, using classic building techniques as well as ultra-modern processes. It's this combination that has ensured Morgan's popularity – and it now builds well in excess of 1,000 cars a year, with order books near constantly full.

With three distinct ranges – 3, Wheeler, Classic and Aero – the Morgan list of cars is as varied as the processes that are used to create them. And with the vast majority of creation and manufacture taking place in-house, there's a distinct sense of family to the entire operation. It feels worlds away from the robot-controlled production methods that are used by modern manufacturers.

### Iconic

We were let off the leash to discover the ins and outs of Morgan's factory – as well as get the chance to meet some of the people who help create such iconic cars.

The process starts with a chassis. It's made from bonded aluminium, which creates a stiff foundation for the entire car. This first room sees the wiring loom fitted, along with the fuel tank – you could even start the car here if you wanted to.

These chassis are brought in from a company in Birmingham – a relatively short trip from Malvern. This process is used to create the 'modern' Morgan cars – classic versions use a combination of aluminium and ash. It may be an old-school material to use but it ensures incredible lightness, as well as making these cars surprisingly eco-friendly.

Those classic models employ a chassis created from ash pieces that are pre-cut in a mill on site. The pieces are then glued and pre-assembled, after which they are hand-finished and treated for longevity.

Morgan cars use a variety of engines from established manufacturers. The Plus 4, for instance, utilises a 2.0-litre engine from Ford while the larger Aero 8 uses a powerful BMW-sourced 4.8-litre V8. These engines are an intricate part of the entire car – so it's no wonder that Morgan chooses reliable, well-trusted powerplants for its vehicles.

With each new section of the build process comes a new smell. The tin shop, for instance, smells – unsurprisingly – of metal, while the wood shop – our next stop – smells just like an old woodwork classroom, or a D&T room for younger readers.



There are no shrouds, no frosted glass windows, everything is in plain sight and simple to understand



The process starts with a chassis, made from bonded aluminium, which creates a stiff foundation for the car

All Morgan cars rely upon some form of hand-worked wood element. Technicians here use hand tools to get each piece spot on before it's used in a vehicle, though some modern techniques such as vacuum bonding are also used.

Morgan has original wood plans dating back to the 1950s – and it can still make one that way today.

Using ash means that each car is able to absorb bumps in the road, giving it a better ride than you'd expect.

An amazing tool that's used to create the classic model's wheel arches is a jig made entirely from oak – and it's been there so long that the vast majority of people working at Morgan don't know when it was installed. The ash is left in there for around half a day, and is a classic version of the modern vacuum pressing method.

Whereas many manufacturers use wood veneer, Morgan uses the real thing. Each interior dashboard piece can be tailored to a customer's specification but it's always all-wood rather than plastic.

The level of personalisation on offer is hard to get your head around. Seats can be trimmed in a variety of different leathers and can be embossed with the Morgan logo – or even a customer's name, should they want it applied.

Everything is stitched by hand, although some elements are aided by computers.

Similar to the car's use of modern engines with traditional building materials, each

manufacturer process is a seamless blend of the new and old.

Of course, there's one three-wheeled addition that we haven't mentioned just yet. The original three-wheeler was Morgan's first car, with production starting shortly after the end of the First World War in 1918. It used a two-speed transmission and remained in production until the early 1930s.

### Process

The modern 3 Wheeler certainly has the looks and build of the original, with a V-Twin motor sitting proudly at the front of the vehicle and weighing in at just 525kg.

However, these vehicles are created in a separate part of the factory and have their own dedicated production line. Because the build process is so far removed from that of the standard Morgan cars, it was decided that it needed its own area – and that's exactly what it got. It's proved immensely popular, and is selling in America as well as in Europe.

Thousands of people take a tour of the Morgan factory each year and it's easy to see why. There are no shrouds, no frosted glass windows, everything is in plain sight and simple to understand.

There's one word to describe Morgan: honest. If there's something that car manufacturers could use a little more of – especially in this day and age – it's honesty, and it's a feature that Morgan has by the bucketload.



In the cabin everything is stitched by hand, although some elements may be aided by computers

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Charlemont Star pictured in 1976 with boss and founder Garth Thomas (top left)



Star line-up for a photo call during the 1988/89 campaign



Andrew Wilcoxson (back right) and his current squad on their most recent European tour



Past and present players gather at recent reunion

# Star's still shining bright 60 years on

**SIX** decades on from their formation, Charlemont Star continue to give their players the chance to shine.

The amateur football club, based in West Bromwich, celebrated their 60th anniversary recently at Dartmouth Golf Club, where current and former players joined to share tales of their time with the Star.

They were formed in 1957 by Garth Thomas, who died in 2015. Over the years he retained a keen interest in the goings on and was kept regularly updated.

An extract from Thomas' memoirs read: "Up until I was 23 my routine was to have a kick about with local teenagers at Bird End. Gradually those got longer, so one Saturday afternoon in July the lads suggested we start a team. At the time I only gave it a week or so believing it would be a seven-day novelty."

## Consistent

The club have been blessed with commitment and consistent management, firstly under Thomas, before Baz Plant took up the reins in the 1980s. Current boss Andrew Wilcoxson joined the club in the mid 1990s, managing alongside Dave Stocking and Richard Cox, and has been sole manager since Star's reformation in 2010 following a brief break.

The club originally competed in the West Bromwich Sunday League, later named the Sandwell League. They regularly went toe-to-toe with rivals The Bush, Wones United, Prince Regent, White Swan and Churchfield Tavern in their early years.

For the most part of their existence, Charlemont's home base has been Hydes Road playing fields in Wednesbury. They have just secured permission to return to Churchfields playing fields in West Bromwich for the current campaign. Hamstead Hill has also been another home.

An array of former players returned for the club's latest milestone celebration. Plant, a re-

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Lewis Cox

***"It's giving lads the opportunity to play. It's organised. All they have to do is turn up and play."***

tired schoolteacher, 60, who played and managed for around 15 years, said: "When I joined there were various characters from the around the Stone Cross and Charlemont area. John Garnzarek, who has sadly died, Keith Willets, Jimmy Young - they were the main characters, and they welcomed me whole-heartedly with Garth.

"Garth was larger than life in more ways than one. A big guy, 20 stone plus. I had a yellow Mini when I started and he got in it and buckled the car door.

"We'd regularly finish seventh or eight in the league. We never got relegated despite finishing so low, even when finishing bottom! It's fantastic at the moment. The job that Andy's done is absolutely brilliant."

Wilcoxson described moving to the Birmingham Festival League as 'a shot in the arm' for the club. Star enjoyed success at the turn of the millennium, gaining promotion to Division Two alongside a couple of handy cup runs in the Birmingham County FA Junior Cup.

Their only time out of action was a brief break of four seasons between 2006 and 2010 before Wilcoxson launched the club again, attracting a new squad that entered the West Midlands Christian Football League.

In seven years they have provided opportunities to hundreds of youngsters both in the region and, remarkably for a local amateur side with one member of staff, on the continent.

Star head out on an annual European tour. Since their reformation they have been away to Germany, Austria and Norway, facing local

sides from their European counterparts. Star have forged close bonds with Bremen outfits TV Bremen-Walle and Bremer SV, whom they have played twice. They have also gone up against FT Gern, a youth club of German international Phillip Lahm, and Didi Hamann's ex-club FC Wacker Munchen.

The tours, organised by their boss, remain an attractive proposition to players, who enjoy both the social and competitive aspect of the club's set-up. They head out to Leipzig in Germany next May.

Wilcoxson, 48, from Telford, said: "It's giving lads the opportunity to play. It's organised. All they have to do is turn up and play. Everything's provided for them. They are grateful, they don't express it too often, it's nice when they say they appreciate what you do."

"I don't want 'thank you's and praise, you make memories and friends. It was nice at Garth's funeral with how many former members attended."

"Without Garth's commitment and dedication to the club it would have folded many years ago. There wouldn't be a Charlemont Star. He was always interested and helped us financially."

Oh his jet-setting side, the boss added: "Many of the games stick in my mind because they're good, competitive matches. Then there's the memories and camaraderie with our hosts after the games."

"The standard of football there, at amateur level, is well-organised but player-for-player, they're close. Though we've picked a few anomalies where they've been quite a bit better than us!"

The future looks bright for Star, who are sponsored by Attewell Opticians and also the Red Lion pub in West Bromwich, with whom they have just struck a new partnership.

The club are always on the lookout for new players, and are particularly in search for a goalkeeper for the current campaign. Anybody interested in supporting, sponsorship, coaching or playing can contact Wilcoxson by emailing [ajwilco@sky.com](mailto:ajwilco@sky.com).

## Fan favourite Lescott makes return to city

JOLEON Lescott is on his way back to Wolverhampton for a special night with fans in December. Lescott remains a popular figure in the city thanks to his time at Wolves where he started his career after joining as a trainee.

He was part of the Wolves side which won promotion to the Premier League for the first time in their history in 2003 at Cardiff and played more than 220 games before moving to Everton. He will talk about his career and meet fans at the Cleveland Arms, Stow Heath Lane, on December 7.

After three years on Merseyside, Lescott went on to win two Premier League titles, an FA Cup and a League Cup at Manchester City before spells back in the West Midlands at Albion and Villa.

It will be the first time the former England international, who won 24 caps, has done a stage appearance and he will be alongside former Wolves promotion-winning team-mate Matt Murray. VIP tickets, to include a meet and greet, buffet, priority seating and signed photo, are on sale at [clevelandarms.com](http://clevelandarms.com) or the venue, by phone 01902 451021. Standard tickets are £12.

## Heathens heroes sign up for Golden Hammer

TWO modern-day Cradley heroes are already on board for the 2017 F.A.S.T Golden Hammer on October 23.

Ashley Morris and Max Clegg are the first two riders confirmed for the famous individual event taking place at Wolverhampton's Monmore Green at 7.30pm.

Current captain Tom Perry is also expected to be a part of the line-up. Heathens club chairman Nigel Pearson said: "We're delighted we can now round off the year with the Golden Hammer."

"Having Ash and Max as the first two confirmed names is a great way to start building the line-up."

He added: "We've been able to schedule it for the Monday of the half-term school holidays and therefore we are delighted to offer free admission to children aged 12 and under."

Admission prices are £15 for adults, concessions £10, £5 for 13-to-18-year-olds and free for under-12s.

## Doyle retires over concussion fears

FORMER Wolves striker Kevin Doyle has announced his retirement from football - after repeated incidents of concussion. The 34-year had been playing in the MLS for Colorado Rapids and took advice from consultants.

Republic of Ireland international Doyle was Wolves' record signing when he moved to Molineux for £6.5million from Reading at the start of the 2009/10 season.

Doyle played a starring role as Mick McCarthy's side avoided relegation from the Premier League, scoring nine goals in 34 appearances. He would stay with the club until 2015 when, after loan spells with Crystal Palace and QPR, he signed for Colorado. In all he netted 33 times in 179 Wolves games, his most memorable goal arguably the winner in a famous 2-1 victory over Sir Alex Ferguson's Manchester United in 2011.

In a statement, Doyle said heading the ball had become 'problematic' and that two concussions this season alone have forced him to take medical advice.





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## Boss claims future bleak for Heathens

FEARS are rising over the future of Cradley Heathens.

Club director Nigel Pearson had earlier hinted his own involvement could not be guaranteed, while co-boss Gary Patchett says next season's plans could be out of their hands.

The reborn Heathens who made a stunning return to the sport, sharing with Wolverhampton and Birmingham in 2010. But with no immediate prospect of a home to call their own next year, track sharing is again the only option.

It could mean that their final two meetings – both at Monmore – against Eastbourne on October 16 and the FAST Golden Hammer a week later could be their final action of the modern era.

"They were difficult this year, but we pulled a rabbit out of the hat with the double-headers, which have been reasonably successful," said Patchett.

"But running at Birmingham isn't much fun for the supporters. We are grateful for the fact that we were able to race there, but it's hard.

"And with the likelihood of new owners at Birmingham, then they could be running two teams there.

"We may be putting two and two together and coming up with five, but it may be that Perry Barr is not an option.

"Then we have the AGM to come and from what I'm hearing, and with Lake-side looking to return to the Premiership, they may come up with a 10-team league and four more home fixtures for Wolves. That's four more Mondays we can't have. We might be scuppered."

## Bishop first back for blue hoops in home race Shocker

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club didn't have to travel far to race at the weekend. In fact the distance from the club to the venue was actually shorter than the race itself, prompting some to run from the club to the race, run it hard, and then run back.

The venue was Envile Hall and the race was the 10k Action Heart promoted Sheepwalks Shocker.

With the race on the doorstep there were plenty of blue hoops in attendance. Darran Bishop put his marathon training to good use coming home in 10th place in 41.34 with Dave Norman in 16th in 43.49. Helen Tromans put her excellent ability to descend quickly to good use to win the ladies race in 45.49, taking 25th place overall. Andrew Weaver was 57th in 50.48, Hannah McGuire finished in 53.52 to take 91st place, Carol Fisher was 125th in 56.49, Jane Campbell 190th in 1.03.01 and Tracey O'Donoghue was 262nd in 1.11.05 with Karen Flint finishing a position behind in the same time.

Elsewhere, Jacqui Elson-Whittaker claimed 5844 place in the Cardiff Half marathon in a time of 1.57.55.

## Glassboys go second after cup progress

**Stourbridge 2 Coalville 1**

STOURBRIDGE moved up to second in the Evo-Stik Premier thanks to Jordan Archer's last-minute winner on Monday night.

It looked as if the Glassboys would have to settle for a point until Archer controlled a pass from substitute Danny O'Callaghan and rifled home as the game entered stoppage time.

Stourbridge, who had won eight of their last 10 in all competitions heading into the match, took the lead in the 34th minute, Matt Dodd firing

home. Coalville equalised eight minutes into the second period as Lee Cox finished off Blair Anderson's cross at the back post.

**Stourbridge 3 Alfreton 1**

STOURBRIDGE will entertain Macclesfield in the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup on October 14.

Progress was made on Saturday thanks in no small part to referee Scott Simpson, who sent off two Alfreton players in the opening 24 minutes.

The National League North side saw Tom Allan

and Bradley Wood dismissed before Tom Tonks fired home a 20-yard free-kick for the opener.

Stourbridge increased the lead on 57 minutes, Josh Green netting from close range. But Alfreton were thrown a lifeline six minutes later when Glassboys defender Darryl Westlake was judged to have handled and former Walsall player Craig Westcarr converted from the spot.

It led to a nervous finish before long-serving Leon Broadhurst headed home with three minutes left.

## Byfield is in home corner at The Venue

HOMETOWN favourite Les Byfield will undertake a six-round when professional boxing returns to The Venue in Dudley later this month.

He will share top billing with Lichfield's Brad Foster on the 'Knocked For Six' bill at the High Street venue on Friday, October 20.

It will mark Byfield's first step up from four rounds, while Foster returns to the ring for a third straight six-round.

Netherton's Byfield, aged 30, is again set to take on long-haul campaigner Andy Harris, after a first meeting between the two super featherweights was postponed.

'The Minefield' has been out of action for three months waiting to take on the 35-year-old veteran from Gloucestershire, who has 56 pro bouts under his belt.

He is still unbeaten in seven outings after a draw with Brett Fido on June 24. He's won six times, with a first round TKO in one victory.

Birmingham's Kane Baker and Walsall's Shaun Cooper will also occupy the home corner for four-round contests, with further bouts still to be added.

Tickets, priced at £35 and £50 ringside with waitress service, are available now by calling 07976 283 157. Alternatively, contact any of the boxers in the home corner on Facebook.

At Walsall Town Hall last weekend, Kingswinford super welterweight, Danny Ball recorded a points win over MJ Hall.

## Eggington named young boxer of year

SAM EGGINGTON has been named the Boxing Writers' Club's Young Boxer of the Year.

The 23-year-old welterweight, from Stourbridge, finished ahead of super-featherweight Zelfa Barrett in the poll for 2017's award.

Eggington impressively ended the career of former world champion Paulie Malignaggi in March and in May stopped Spain's Ceferino Rodriguez in 10 rounds to win the European title. He defends his title tomorrow night (Friday) against Mohamed Mimoune of France and receives his award at the organisation's 66th annual dinner on Sunday.

# CHESTER PUT OUT TO GRASS

**Stourbridge RFC 36 Chester 12**

**THE fifth game of the season saw Stourbridge play only their second game at home and still relying on old-fashioned grass as the new artificial surface is a 'work in progress.'**

On Saturday they welcomed the team, management and supporters from Chester who make the relatively short journey from Hare Lane.

Chester lay in 10th place having won two out of four of this season's encounters, losing both away games.

Some midweek and early morning rain meant the going should have been 'good to soft' but at around 1.30 the heavens parted and the game was played in persistent drizzle for the full 80 minutes.

On the three minute mark the deadlock was broken by some rapid movement of the ball to find the reliable Dan Rundle out left for a touch down but too far out for the conversion attempt to count. Five minutes later a penalty line out catch and drive saw a determined scrum half Ben Tibbetts scoring, converted by Afeafe Haisila.

### Converted

The next score also fell to the hosts, Haisila slotting a penalty before Chester got on the sheet through number 11 Matt Crow. Then Chad Thorne's first try of the season was converted by Haisila on 37 minutes.

The first-half scoring was rounded off by an Haisila try, converted by Chris Scott, making it 29-5.

It took until the 73rd minute for the first points of the second half to be scored, by the visitors. Replacement Shaun Strudwick was released through a bullocking run from James Robins. The conversion by Liam McGovern was successful but Stourbridge had the final say with a score from Charlie Jeavons-Fellows.

Stourbridge Lions went down 13-3 at Moseley Old Oak, Tom Mitchell kicking the Lions' points.



Winger Afeafe Haisila dives over for a bonus point try to round off the first-half scoring

## Bottom side Yeltz collapse after early lead

**Halesowen 1 Workington 5** ROCK bottom Halesowen started brightly but collapsed to a 5-1 thumping defeat.

The Yeltz took a fifth minute lead when Daniel Udoh hit a hard, low shot past Aaran Taylor from 20 yards.

But Workington gradually took control to establish a half-time lead. Scott Allison slotted

home his seventh goal of the season after 35 minutes and the Reds were in front just four minutes later when Jack Egan looped home a header off the post following terrible confusion between goalkeeper Dan Platt and his defender Jack Kelly.

The Yeltz defence fell apart again after the interval as Workington hit two more goals

in the first six minutes. Conor Tinnion sliced an initial shot, but Egan was on hand to slam home his second goal into the roof of the net after 48 minutes. Workington's fourth goal was a real cracker when David Symington smashed home a 51st minute volley.

Jordan Holt completed Yeltz's misery in stoppage time.

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